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BRIEFS

JORDAN AIDS ISRAELI WATER--Almost 6,000 cubic meters of water have been flowing into the Yarmuk daily in the last 5 months as a result of the Jordanians' inability to overcome the faults in their water drilling in the al-Hammah region. This water, which is of high quality, flows from the Yarmuk to Lake Tiberias, and according to remarks by the Meqorot Water Company's director general, this is an important, albeit unexpected, contribution to the Lake Tiberias Water Reservoir. [Excerpt] [TA221413 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Feb 83 p 2]

ISRAELI-EUROPEAN-EGYPTIAN TRADE--The "Koor-Trade" Company has recently begun importing various products from Europe to Egypt through its office in Cairo. "Koor-Trade" was compelled to take this move because the Egyptian authorities do not allow its branch in Egypt to import products from Israel and they have been withholding import licenses for about 6 months. In order to provide work for the "Koor-Trade" branch in Egypt and justify its existence, it was decided that it would deal with imports of European products to Egypt. Indeed, goods worth about \$5 million have recently reached Egypt through the mediation of "Koor-Trade." I was informed by the "Koor-Trade" administration that they hoped an improvement in Israeli-Egyptian relations and a resumption of the normalization talks [sentence unfinished as published]. [Text] [TA241205 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Feb 83 p 18]

CSO: 4400/227

AHMED TALEB IBRAHIMI INTERVIEWED BY YUGOSLAV MAGAZINE

LD071355 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT 7 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 7/3/83 (APS)--Mr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Politburo member, foreign affairs minister, granted a long interview to the Yugoslav magazine of international policy.

Explaining the consequences of the current world crisis, Dr Taleb Ibrahimi said that "the gaps in development levels are increasing. The international and monetary and financial disorder keeps our countries in indebtedness. The protectionist deprive our raw materials from an equitable remuneration. Through sale terms and conditions, multiple obstacles hamper our access to capital markets and sources of technology." "Undoubtedly, the development of under development in wide areas of the Third World has become a reality, for it has not raised up the imperative concerted and organized reaction. The current crisis thwarts boosting policies and development in our countries," Dr Taleb Ibrahimi asserted "such are the distinctive elements of the conjuncture which is prevailing in the non-aligned summit."

Mr Ibrahimi underlined that the movement's contribution in booting out the last remnants of the colonial and racial domination, "passes by the reaffirmation of our support to peoples of South Africa, Namibia, Palestine and Western Sahara in their heroic struggle to recover their rights--all their rights--to selfdetermination and a free existence. In the same way, he indicated, we have to fulfill our duty of solidarity with Arab countries and front line states and against the apartheid aggressive manoeuvres which want to discourage the resolution and hamper the contribution to the national liberation movement in Australia, Africa and Palestine.

Mr Taleb Ibrahimi recalled, in this conviction, that "the reinforcement of fields of solidarity and cooperation among developing countries remains the crucial theme of our movement summit. A fundamental [word indistinct] was given to the carrying on of Caracas working programme. We have to keep it up. Our meeting in New Delhi, apart from the necessary evaluation of acquisitions, will be an opportunity to give a new political impulse to a process which is encouragingly developing."

"It is time that developing countries possess important means and potentialities that can enable them to face up with the world economic crisis," he said stressing that "by mobilizing the productive capacities of all our countries, we would turn the horizontal cooperation into an operational mean in our just claim over a new international economic order."

CSO: 4500/133

'AL-SHA'B' WELCOMES SOVIET MISSILES IN SYRIA

PM132301 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Mar 83 p 18

[Fathi Radwan article: "Welcome to SAM-5 in Syria"]

[Excerpts] I did not appreciate the Egyptian popular saying "those who feel shame have died" until after I heard U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' statement about the deployment of SAM-5 missiles in Syria. The secretary said that his government has contacted the Soviet Union and informed it of its anxiety over the placing of these missiles in Syria because this would increase the possibility of war and because, by taking this step, the Soviet Union would be disturbing security in the area and increasing causes of anxiety.

The United States, may God preserve it and protect it, is today telling about the possibility of war and increasing causes of anxiety in the Middle East. It is as if the esteemed gentleman [Shultz] does not yet know that a crushing war actually took place in Lebanon last year and that it lasted about 2 months, during which tens of thousands of innocent people, who had nothing to do with it or with the conflict, perished. Nor does he know that the war escalated into absolute barbarism in which the Israelis shed all human qualities and their savagery was matched by the Lebanese phalangists.

During and after this massacre it was proved to the world that the Israelis would have been unable to do what they did had Israel not been quite sure that these massacres were exactly what U.S. policy wanted and were in accordance with the objectives of that policy. This was further proved when the Palestinian resistance was evicted from Lebanon and distributed among the Arab states. Mr Reagan then unashamedly announced that the possibility of peace had increased. Nobody could understand how these massacres that were a stigma for mankind could be the road to any peace, even a U.S.-made peace.

Can, after all these tragic events, anybody in the United States talk about preserving the security of the miserable area which neocolonialism calls the "Middle East"? Is it right to talk about the possibility of war and the fear of it?

The right attitude toward the reports disseminated by Israeli and the U.S. propaganda about new missiles which thousands of Soviet advisers are installing in Syria is to welcome them, even if we are told that these missiles could be

the prelude to a new war between Israel and Syria. War did actually take place between Israel and Lebanon even before a single one of these missiles was installed on its platform. This war was unlike any other, and yet the United States did not feel guilty though it knew well that this war--Israel's war in Lebanon--was in fact an American war because every bullet Israel fired and every gun it used came in boxes from the United States.

Wars in the Arab east do not break out because of Soviet missiles but rather because of U.S. policy backed by U.S. arms. If Israel is able to act like an angry bull in Lebanon and in Palestine and to do what it likes, it is because it is aware that the Arabs have unjustly and with no justification denied themselves the possession of arms matching the U.S. arms that flow into Israel.

It is to be hoped that the report of the arrival of these long-range Soviet missiles is true and not just an American invention intended as an excuse to attack Syria. It is also to be hoped that from now on the Arabs will realize that the only argument the United States and Israel understand is for the Arabs to become well-armed and well-trained with new weapons, to be prepared for war and to be strong fighters who are to be reckoned with, like 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jaza'iri. They should give up hope of resolving our problems with the West with patience and moderation and reliance on diplomacy and politics. Some 30 years of bitter experience with the West, with moderation and with confidence in promises like those of Reagan and Carter should be enough to awaken us from our slumber.

Wise people in the Arab world should welcome the SAM-5s and should not be frightened by what is said about their being a sign of war, because the new Israeli war will take place only if Israel is quite certain that we remain without arms capable of dealing it two blows for one and we continue to have confidence in the United States.

Needless to say, we will not provoke the United States or Israel and we cannot imagine that we can fight a war simply with wishes. Preparation for a successful war with the Israelis is a long road and fraught with risks. Its essential requirements are patience, sincerity and endurance. But we must prepare the materials for this war right now, work for peace as if it was coming tomorrow and work for war as something inevitable.

There remains another point in the U.S. statements that also deserves comment. The United States says that Syria has become the gate through which the Soviet Union enters the Middle East. We are glad that the United States has realized that its lame and crooked policy is the cause of increasing Soviet influence and increasing resentment against itself. What has become known nowadays as the "U.S. strategy" has only one single aim, which is to monopolize the Arabs and erect a high wall between them and any other influence, particularly the Soviet influence. But the Arabs are daily realizing that the aim of the U.S. strategy is to make us surrender to Israeli influence with our hands and feet tied. They also realize that the United States is doing all it can to prepare for Israel the throne of the Middle East, which it will surround with a halo of political and economic influence backed by the United States and the West and strengthened with funds, arms, espionage and all the U.S. intelligence methods of stirring up disturbances, hatching conspiracies, and spreading moral and political corruption which afflict every state to which the American dollar flows in the shape of aid.

For this reason the Soviet Union's influence will inevitably increase and it will win more sympathy and new friends thanks to the foolish U.S. policy. Israel and the United States alone will remain isolated and with no alternative other than more violence, more wars, and more killing and annihilation and further persecution of the Palestinians everywhere. They will continue to prevent all solutions that lead to the establishment of a tiny state on the little that is left of the Palestinian territory.

The United States will pay the price of all this.

CSO: 4500/134

'AKHBAR AL-YAWM' ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., USSR

PM111041 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 5 Mar 83 p 8

[Ibrahim Sa'dah article: "The Political Situation Away From the Nonalignment Conference"]

[Excerpts] It is not in Egypt's interest to strengthen its relations with the Soviet Union and sever its relations with the United States, just as it is not in Egypt's interest to build bridges with Washington and burn its bridges with Moscow. It is in Egypt's interest--and this applies to every other independent state---to have normal relations with all states including the two giants, namely the United States and the Soviet Union.

If our relations with the United States have been strengthened and consolidated, this does not mean that the deterioration in Egyptian-Soviet relations should continue. The time has now come for the two capitals, Cairo and Moscow, to think about ways to restore normal relations between them in the light of what guarantees each side may offer to restore mutual confidence and prevent a fresh deterioration in relations. Both sides are well aware of the reasons which led to the estrangement between them. Each side has a right to make observations and proposals and to offer guarantees so that the stage of negotiations--which we hope will be successful--may begin and so that the estrangement between the two sides may come to an end and so that normal relations may be restored between two equal and independent states and not between one state and a superpower seeking to defeat the other small state, control its resources again and dictate to it the policy it should follow, the friend it should have and the camp it should deal with.

In my opinion, the restoration of Egyptian-Soviet relations does not mean deterioration of Egyptian-American relations. I do not exaggerate when I say the restoration of relations with the Soviet Union should be an opportunity for stronger and closer relations with the United States. It is no secret that some people--close to the U.S. administration--have cautioned that the restoration of Egyptian-Soviet relations would force on Cairo a pause with Washington. Many have heard this warning and many have been convinced by it and have urged their government to heed it when it begins to assess the future of U.S.-Egyptian relations in the coming few years.

Nobody is unaware of what this warning means. Its proponents want to convince U.S. public opinion that we are people without principle, policy or decision, that our friends today are our enemies tomorrow, that we are not grateful to the hand which helps us, that we do not treasure the friendship of those who have fulfilled our demands, and that we do not appreciate the side which participated with all its influence in persuading Israel to end its occupation of our territory. We are definitely not that kind of people.

Extending our hand to Moscow does not mean withdrawing it automatically from Washington. On the contrary, it may provide an opportunity for more cooperation with the United States without fear of any accusation, suspicion or distortion of facts about U.S.-Egyptian relations. The only thing which might threaten U.S.-Egyptian relations would be a change in the U.S. attitude toward us in conflict with our own position and in disregard for our national goals. Unless such an unacceptable U.S. stance emerges there is nothing to prevent the continuation and further strengthening and confirmation of relations between us. There is no contradiction between the principle of nonalignment and consolidation of relations with friendly states.

So let Egyptian-Soviet relations be restored, and let the relations with all the states which, for one reason or another, had broken off relations with us, be restored. We have suffered enough from diplomatic adolescence [as published] and the severance of relations with states whenever there is a crisis. Differences between states cannot be resolved through severance of relations. They can be resolved through agreement to resolve them, through nonintervention in the affairs of others and through respect for every state's right to pursue its own policy in the interest of its people, security and sovereignty.

The restoration of relations with the Soviet Union or any other state will not be at the expense of our relations with another friendly state.

CSO: 4500/134

KAMAL HASAN 'ALI INTERVIEWED IN NEW DELHI

JN111941 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1744 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Interview with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in New Delhi on 11 March by radio Monte Carlo correspondent Huda Tawfiq, carried within "It Happened Tomorrow" program--recorded]

[Text] [Question] The seventh nonaligned summit is nearing its end with the Iraq-Iran war still the main dominant issue on the agenda. Can the nonaligned summit deal positively with an issue affecting two nonaligned member states?

[Answer] In effect, it is the objective of the nonaligned movement to solve every problem affecting the nonaligned states by peaceful means. There is no doubt that the military conflict between Iraq and Iran is bound to reflect on the nonaligned movement. It is therefore incumbent upon the movement to urge the two countries to stop the war immediately. I believe that the summit is heading toward taking such a step and urging the two conflicting states to enter into negotiations for the sake of achieving a peaceful settlement.

[Question] You were a party to the contacts which were held all night last night regarding the Iraq-Iran crisis in light of Iran's refusal to accept a cease-fire. Why has the nonaligned movement failed to solve the crisis at a time when the conflict has become extremely grave?

[Answer] Actually, Iraq's address to the summit delivered by Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf has proposed some practical solutions for ending the current conflict. Despite Iraq's repeated calls for ending the conflict, it is regrettably evident that, Iran, through its delegation's contacts with the summit members, is still abiding by the military solution. I am of the opinion that this would not favor the two countries or the two peoples. We are aware of the size of the losses Iran had sustained during past offensives. Therefore, the prolongation of the conflict would only increase the bloodshed without any justification.

[Question] What is, therefore, the future of the mediation efforts that have been proposed to this summit and before that?

[Answer] It is evident that the summit, after having unsuccessfully endeavored to persuade Iran to tend toward peace, will only issue a statement or make an appeal to the two states to stop the conflict.

[Question] [Question indistinct]

[Answer] Actually, the Middle East crisis and the Lebanese problem were the most important themes discussed by President Husni Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn. This meeting is part of the continuing consultations between Egypt and Jordan in Amman and Cairo over the past months. There is no doubt that this stage is a crucial one because a meeting will take place between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat for consultation on possible Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to generate a momentum to the peace efforts during this month.

[Question] When will Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with King Husayn take place? Will it take place after or before the PLO executive committee's meeting?

[Answer] The meeting is expected to take place after the meeting of the PLO executive committee, namely after 17 March.

[Question] Is King Husayn participating in the peace efforts in an independent manner?

[Answer] We have not discussed this topic with his majesty the king. But it depends on the Jordanian decision.

[Question] Is there any possibility for a Jordanian-Palestinian meeting in light of the PNC's resolutions?

[Answer] I believe that this particular point will be the theme of discussion and the point which will determine the PLO's decision during the upcoming meeting between the PLO and Jordan.

[Question] President Mubarak has met with Lebanon's President Amin al-Jumayyil for the first time. What were the subjects discussed during this meeting?

[Answer] The two leaders exchanged views with regard to the Lebanese issue and the need for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and the other foreign forces from Lebanon. This particular point as well as the talks to date with [word indistinct] Philip Habib were the main topic of their dialogue.

[Question] Is it possible that the tripartite [Lebanese-U.S.-Israel] negotiations may take place in Washington [words indistinct]?

[Answer] It is clear that the invitation extended to [Lebanese foreign minister] Elie Salim to visit Washington simultaneously with [Israeli foreign minister] Shamir's visit to the United States is to enable Salim to reply to any proposals that might arise during the talks there.

[Question] Can we understand that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement has become imminent?

[Answer] Not necessarily. We know that so far Israel is still clinging to security arrangements which can never be accepted and to bilateral relations unacceptable to Lebanon. There is still a gap between the two sides.

[Question] How do you assess President Husni Mubarak's contacts with the Gulf leaders?

[Answer] The contacts were devoted to discussing issues affecting the non-aligned movement and the Arab position toward the settlement efforts. There is no doubt that there is some kind of appreciation of the Egyptian role and policy as well as of President Mubarak's policy toward the Arab situation. This, actually, reflects an admiration for the president's international moves over the past months.

[Question] What are the facts about the Egyptian-Palestinian differences?

[Answer] As far as Egypt's differences with the PLO are concerned, I would like to distinguish between Egypt's advocacy of the Palestinian cause and Egypt's efforts to solve the Palestinian problem on the one hand and Egypt's relations with the PLO on the other. There is no doubt that the PNC's statement in Algiers has exceeded all sense of propriety and was considered from the viewpoint of Egypt and all the nationalist forces--government and people--as an intervention in our domestic affairs which we totally reject. Since we are not interfering in the PLO's affairs, we expect everyone, whoever he may be, to reciprocate.

[Question] [Indistinct]

[Answer] Actually, there were certain contacts with some PLO members. They gave several interpretations but we were absolutely not convinced.

[Question] Therefore, what are the future relations between Egypt and the Palestinians in light of the close cooperation initiated by Egypt with the PLO during the PLO leaders' crisis in Beirut?

[Answer] We are adopting a cause and not a faction. This cause has long been the focus of attention and huge sacrifices of Egypt and the Egyptian people. We will continue to exert efforts to bring about a solution to the Palestinian cause, regardless if [word indistinct] of the West Bank or Gaza Strip. There is no doubt that the Palestinians residing outside the West Bank and Gaza have equal rights.

[Question] Based on all the past contacts, how do you assess the future solution of the Palestinian issue?

[Answer] Actually, a great deal depends on Israel's flexibility and stands. First, the suspension of building of settlements. Second, Israel's stand on President Reagan's initiative, and then the U.S. power to solve the Lebanese problem and Israel's withdrawal and that of the other foreign forces from Lebanon as soon as possible. I believe that under such circumstances, it is possible to expand the circle of negotiations to cover the Palestinian issue on the one hand and to create confidence that Israel wants to solve the Palestinian issue and to recognize some rights of the Palestinian people on the other.

[Question] We have noticed that there was a close cooperation between Egypt's delegation and some other Arab delegations with regard to drafting resolutions

pertinent to the Middle East, Palestine and Lebanon. How do you envisage the resolutions which will be adopted by the summit regarding the Middle East, Palestine and Lebanon?

[Answer] There is no doubt that Egypt has effectively participated in this summit which is appreciated by everyone. As for the Lebanese issue, we, in cooperation with the Lebanese delegation and some other delegations, managed to modify the proposed formula concerning the Lebanese issue and the Israeli and foreign forces withdrawal from Lebanon. As for the Middle East crisis, [words indistinct] commensurate with the current peace efforts and with the projected initiatives for solving the Palestinian problem.

[Question] The summit strongly supports the FES plan and resolutions. Do you see any contradiction between the FES plan and the other initiatives proposed in the international arena?

[Answer] Actually, there is no contradiction. If the [realization] of the FES plan is the target, then other dynamic plans such as President Reagan's initiative should be followed.

CSO: 4500/134

EGYPT

MUBARAK DISCUSSES BUILDING LAWS WITH MINISTERS

NC121705 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting in the presidential palace in al-Qubbah this afternoon. It was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din, social insurance minister and minister of state for social affairs Dr Amal 'Uthman, reconstruction minister and minister of state for housing and land reclamation Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha, Justice Minister Ahmad Mamduh 'Atiyah and Cairo Governor Sa'd Ma'mun.

After the meeting Dr Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din said that the meeting was devoted to discussing the question of the collapse of buildings, the precise implementation of laws by those who have [building] permits and the development of these laws in a manner that will ensure that discipline is adhered to, that the buildings are sound and that no loopholes are left in any laws that would enable the landlords to cheat and to ensure that the lives of the citizens are safeguarded.

Muhyi al-Din also said that President Mubarak gave his directives that the introduction of the necessary amendments to the current legislation be done in the next few days and that they be submitted to the people's assembly meeting which begins next Saturday. He added: We reviewed the recent incidents of collapsing buildings as well as the administrative difficulties facing the local authorities in the sphere of permits, followup and the supervision of buildings. He also said that the current law on buildings is not sufficient to deter the landlord and we have agreed on some ideas, which will crystallize regarding legislation and content. These ideas are related to the easy and practical implementation of the buildings law.

CSO: 4500/134

ACCOUNTING AGENCY REPORT REVEALS IRREGULARITIES IN NEWS AGENCY

Cairo AL-AHA'B in Arabic 8 Feb 83 p 14

[Article: "Report by the Central Accounting Agency on the Middle East News Agency's Budget"]

[Text] The Central Accounting Agency has devoted a report to financial conditions in the Middle East News Agency, basing itself on an investigation of the agency's budget on 30 June 1982 and the final accounts for the fiscal year 1981-82. We summarize its most important contents herewith:

The Policy of Continuous Subsidization and the Effects Arising from That

"It is clear that there has been an ongoing tendency to increase the value of the subsidies that the agency receives from the government each year, since government policy has requested that certain authorities and companies, especially those which by virtue of the nature of their activity are service units, be aided, in order that the deficit resulting from the inadequacy of revenues may be covered. However, subsidies are a double-edged sword. They are established for a period of time, essentially, so that the body to which they are given can function on its income and expenditure budget. However, when the body to which the subsidies are provided relies on them and constantly seeks to increase their value from year to year that has the effect of creating dependence on the subsidies without a corresponding effort to increase revenues, and indeed that might, on many occasions, result in the emergence of extravagance in the case of expenditures, so that such a body will become a burden, and an increasing one, weighing down the government more and more each year."

The report adds that government aid to meet the agency's deficit came to about 500,000 pounds in 1975, and came to 3 million in 1981-82, or an increase of 500 percent, while, in the same period, the workers' wages increased by about 223 percent, commodity requirements increased 115 percent and service requirements increased by 133 percent. Meanwhile, the increases that occurred in the services sold, "revenues from current activities of the agency," came to just 68 percent in the same period.

In reviewing the increases that occurred in 1982-81 as compared with the previous year, 1980-81, it is apparent that the wages increased by 39.9 percent, commodity requirements by 54.7 percent, service requirements by 3.9 percent, and government subsidies by 83 percent, while the value of services sold dropped by 3,113 pounds.

Conversion of Subsidies to Compensation for Services

On 17 April 1982 the Ministry of Finance agreed to give the agency the sum of 3 million pounds for media and press services the agency had provided the government, by converting the aid in the form of subsidies to compensation for media services. The accounting agency report comments on that by stating that it would require "a study of the situation, an estimate of the values of services offered to each body, whether governmental or non-governmental, and an agreement with that body over that report, rather than having the Ministry of Finance make a finding on that value which, in our opinion, was not so much determined in accordance with the value of these services as by the fact that the focus of the body which took charge of the finding was on the agency's expenditure and revenue budget."

In concluding this section, the report demanded that "the effort be made to control and guide spending and increase revenues so that the agency will be able to rely on its own resources."

Flaws Which Mar the Calculation of the Wages of Workers Abroad

The report addressed itself to a number of financial flaws in the method of calculating the salaries of employees in the agency's foreign offices, pointing out that the proportion of the wages of 13 workers in the agency who had been "sent abroad" came to 15.45 percent of the total wages of all the employees in the agency, who were 1,050 in number.

Confusion in the Account Books

In the report by the auditor of the agency's accounts, a reference was made to the failure to note down references to deductions and additions that appeared in the bank accounts in the ledgers. This resulted in the fact that the accounts on the year-end results did not appear in their true state. We consider that it is necessary to contact the banks so that they will carry out the necessary settlements.

The report by the Accounting Agency describes that as laxity on the part of the people concerned with the performance of the settlements and the effort to keep regular entries in the ledgers, especially since it appears that most of the notifications of deductions and additions appearing in the various bank account statements dealt with long periods which on some occasions exceeded 5 years and that the total value of the deposits entered in the bank accounts but not entered in the ledgers came to about 144,115 pounds.

Observations That Were Revealed upon Review of the Cash in Banks

A liter is enough for a district of 60 towns. A caesarean operation alone requires 3 liters of blood. The deputy minister went out in anger, threatening and fuming. By the way, the deputy minister of health in al-Buhayrah always says that he was a boxing champion and that he was a colleague of Dr Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din's. The deputies of Kawm Hammadah did not act on behalf of the Kawm Hammadah Hospital, which treated hundreds of sick persons a day. Will the minister of health act and send the necessary blood? [paragraph apparently misplaced]

The report rejected the agency's consideration that the differences arising from the prices of foreign currency deposited in the banks were tantamount to revenues, since these differences, by their nature, were kept in the foreign currencies, in order to cope with its commitments in the foreign currencies, and were not the subject of transactions. As a result, a reserve ought to have been formed for rises in the prices of foreign currency valued at these differences, which would subsequently be used to settle any declines in the prices of these currencies.

The report pointed out that the agency had made a settlement between debtor and creditor balances and that it had shown the net in the budget without following sound accounting rules which require that settlements not be made and that debtor and creditor balances be shown in the budget, in order to express the true state of the financial condition. It stressed that the bank balances stated in the budget did not represent the truth!

Various Observations

The Accounting Agency report concluded by addressing itself to a number of various flaws. Among them were the flaws in the execution of the contract concluded with the German firm Siemens for the supply of the equipment necessary to complete the agency building project. The agency, for instance, did not take any measures toward investigating the fitness of the equipment the Siemens company had provided, which was Swiss in origin, its conformity to specifications, and the suitability of its prices in accordance with the price list presented by the Siemens company.

In addition, the report pointed out that the compensation which the chairman of the board of the agency had approved for the newspaper ZART ISRA'IL WAS UNJUSTIFIED. It referred to the expenditure of more than 8,000 pounds for the purchase of uniforms for security employees, messengers and drivers -- uniforms that were not in keeping with the nature of the jobs of these sorts of workers. This matter conflicts with the principle of the guidance of spending which the Ministry of Finance has emphasized.

The report also referred to flaws that marred the conduct of bids in certain cases and the failure to hold any bids at all on another occasion.

The Accounting Agency report ended. If this sampling of incidents had included the incident of the elevator that collapsed in the new agency building, with a number of employees, some of whom were exposed to serious injuries, if this accident had been added to the fact that the new building has not yet been completed, 14 years after work started on it:

The situation will require special activity on the part of the bodies concerned to reveal the truth about what is going on in the wings of the Middle East News Agency, and hold the people who are at fault to account in accordance with the law.

Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad in an article he wrote in AL-SHA'B newspaper on 4 January 1983, raised questions on that when he said, "Is there an investigation underway on this subject to determine responsibilities? Why is no reference

made to having the contracting firm that was assigned to do the construction pay compensation and meet the cost of the penalty conditions for this delay and neglect?

11887

CSO: 4504/204

PROCEEDINGS OF HIGHER PRESS COUNCIL REVIEWED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 Feb 83 p 6

[Article by Zayid 'Ali Sa'd: "The Higher Press Council Gives Agreement to the Issuance of 14 Newspapers, Including Two Party Youth Papers"]

[Text] The Higher Press Council have its agreement yesterday to the issuance of 14 new newspapers, including two party newspapers for young people, one of them, SHABAB BALADI, issued by the National Party, as well as SHABAB AL-AHRAR, issued by the Socialist Liberal Party. At its session under the chairmanship of Dr Subhi 'Abd-al-Hakim, its chairman, the council agreed to a rise in the minimum wage as of 1 January 1983 for all people working in the nationwide press organizations.

The minimum wages have been raised as follows:

Fifty pounds, for people holding higher credentials.

Thirty-nine pounds, for people holding credentials above the intermediate level.

Thirty-seven pounds, for people holding intermediate credentials and technical workers.

Thirty-two pounds, for people holding credentials below the intermediate level.

Twenty-eight pounds, for service workers and workers without credentials.

The council also agreed to a rise in the prices of the magazines AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI and AL-SHABAB WA-'ULUM AL-MUSTAQBAL to 25 piasters.

It agreed to 12 journalists' requests for permission to work in non-Egypt media bodies.

The council held the session yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr Subhi 'Abd-al-Hakim, the chairman of the council. At the beginning of the session, the council chairman made a statement commemorating the late Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi, member of the council, and called on the members to stand in mourning over his pure spirit.

The council agreed to the issuance of 14 newspapers: SHABAB BALADI, issued by the National Democratic Party; SHABAB AL-AHRAR, issued by the Liberal Party; the magazine IBDA', issued by the Egyptian General Writers' Authority; TALI'AT AL-SINA'AH, issued by the General Union of Machinery, Metal and Electrical Workers; the magazine AL-HATIF, issued by the National Telecommunications Authority; the magazine AL-'AMALIYAH of the Faculty of Medicine for Girls at al-Azhar; two magazines on astronomy issued by the Egyptian Astronomical Society; the magazine AL-HADARAH, issued by the League of Modern Literature; the magazine AL-QALAM, issued by the Society of the Pen; the magazine NADI MADINAT NASR, issued by the Madinat Nasr Sports Club; the magazine AL-SAYD, issued by the Egyptian Hunting Club in al-Duqqi; and, lastly, the magazine AL-QADAH AL-IDARIYIN, issued by the Society of Administrative Heads. Dr Mamduh al-Baltaji, the new chairman of the Information Department, also gave the legal oath before the council after he was admitted into it.

At the end of the meeting, Sabri Abu al-Majd, the secretary general of the Higher Press Council, stated that the council would hold a meeting soon to discuss the charter of press ethics that the Committee on Press and Journalists' Affairs had prepared.

11887

CSO: 4504/206

TWO CANDIDATES FOR JOURNALIST UNION PRESIDENCY FACE OFF

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Feb 83 p 10

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadus]

[Text] A hot debate has been conducted on the pages of AL-SHA'B between the two principal candidates for the office of president of the journalists' union, Salah Jallal, the current president, and Kamal Zuhayri, the previous one. Salah Jallal talks of his doing everything within his power during the journalists' crisis of September 1981 that led to the closing of the opposition newspapers, the dismissal of 67 journalists from their positions, and arrests of others. Kamal Zuhayri responds by saying that the union did not perform up to the desired standard in facing the crisis. The beginning of the debate with Salah Jallal was a hot one:

[Question] Why didn't you resign your post after the events of September 1981, when the opposition newspapers were closed down, a number of journalists were arrested, and a large number were driven out?

[Jallal's answer] Resignation at that time would have meant retreating from responsibility. I prefer to confront things and to search for a solution rather than shooting off sparks or merely disapproving. It would have been easier for me to appear as a hero to the people and the journalists by tendering my resignation and relieving myself of that headache. Instead I refused to take that avenue...there are three means to confront crisis:

Bow your head and adapt to the ruler, supporting him. That was what I did not do.

Resort to acts of intimidation such as a strike, resignation, silence, or peaceful demonstrations. These means might be useful in countries with deep-rooted democracy, however, they are not profitable to one man governments. Instead they cause a more repressive regime.

Confronting the responsibility for mistaken decisions and trying to alter these decisions, this is what I did--I opposed them at every opportunity. I went in front of the late President Anwar al-Sadat openly and opposed converting the union into a club. I openly opposed the normalization of relations with Israel, and the famous writer, Mustafa Amin, stopped writing. So I prefer to confront things, and not to retreat by resigning or merely recording the positions on paper.

[Question] What was your position on the journalists' arrests during the events of September?

[Jallal] I offered everything I could on their behalf. Members of the union attended at their examinations. I visited most of the journalists who were in prison. I tried to get the authorities to release them and the memoes in this regard exist. At least I did not make my support open nor did I describe that as the pinnacle of democracy, as did some others.

[Question] However, there are a number of journalists who supported the arrests, and some even falsely claim that the arrests of the journalists was a lie, and (still others) raise the accusation against some of the journalists and a number of the politicians that (alleged) links to a foreign power were false and untrue. What did you do in the face of these people?

[Jallal] The journalists' union ignored them. We studied the official releases which were published in the papers and more than that the accused supported us by resorting to the law and this is brought out in the union minutes.

[Question] It appears that you did not do anything when the regime closed the opposition newspapers in September 1981. Did you submit to the regime?

[Jallal] No, to the contrary. I was the first to react to that! An insight into this subject is that President Anwar al-Sadat disclosed to the Egyptian journalists who accompanied him on his last trip to America his desire to take stern measures against the opposition in Egypt upon his return. Then I opposed him in front of the journalists, and Makram Muhammad Ahmad and 'Abd al-'Aziz Khamis backed me up. AL-SHA'B had published that itself. After the opposition papers were closed I tried again to contact every authority I could including the President of the Republic himself; Mansur Hasan, the man responsible for the (Ministry of) Information then; and al-Muhandas Sayyid Mar'i, Vice-President of the Republic.

[Question] What is your view on the state of journalistic freedom?

[Jallal] Opposition newspapers are the only ones which savor freedom. As for national newspapers, they are papers of the government. Some fundamental steps have to be taken to achieve complete journalistic freedom in Egypt.

- 1) Grant freedom of the press and remove the fetters which bind the press; and necessarily (provide) the financial guarantees needed for it. Journalism is not composed merely by writing articles. It is a huge enterprise on the condition that the necessary financial guarantees do not emasculate (the newspaper) as happened with the current law.
- 2) Restriction of the control of the advisory board over the national papers, at least since their employees own half the capital.
- 3) The need to restrict the absolute control of the editors-in-chief of the national newspapers. I would like the responsibility for these newspapers to be the responsibility of the editor-in-chief and a board of directors.

This is a guarantee in my view in the event of a difficulty which prevents some journalists from writing on the national newspapers by order of an editor-in-chief.

4) The necessity that membership on the Supreme Council of the Press be by election and not by appointment.

[Question] Why are you nominating yourself as president another time?

[Jallal] To finish what I have begun since the president's term is only 2 years while the members's term is 4. The restriction of the term of the journalists' (union) president to only 2 years exists in no other union, and I believe the intention behind it is the weakening of the journalists' union.

[Suddenly Kamal Zuhayri interrupts] I hold the belief that the president's term should only be 2 years. It was adopted already in the Newspaper Act of 1970, my feeling on this is that it is not at all a weakening of the union's authority but to the contrary it strengthens it. [Kamal Zuhayri explains his point of view saying:] Every press position is by appointment except for the position of the president, so it needs to be allowed that (his position) comes under constant supervision of a group of journalists so that when he is not suitable or if he is unfit for the job it would be the right of the journalists to recall him after only 2 years, and not have to wait 4 years.

[Question] Has the journalists' union, and the presidency itself, performed up to the required standard in face of the events of September 1981?

[Zuhayri] I don't want to add anything to what the current president (said) but the union's weakness gives it the semblance that it is a [reality]. When something grows weaker it becomes easy to disparage it. There can be no doubt that it is within the power of the union to oppose those bloody events by other means; the simplest of which is to resist those oppressive decisions which swept journalistic freedom away by bringing suit on behalf of the union to the administrative court instead of undertaking otherwise. The right to judicial process is guaranteed in the constitution and it is affirmed in a special article of journalists' union act.

[Question] Why have you nominated yourself for a second time? Didn't you regret it after you tried and failed last time?

[Zuhayri] My friend, a failure here is only relative. How many victories have there been where defeat would have been better! I feel confident in my companions' desire for me and their wishes that I become president. But last time the contest was not at all fair since it was corrupted by obvious interference. I think that all of that has turned around.

[Question] Could you explain to me the irregularities that spoiled the last contest?

[Zuhayri] The assault on the press and on journalists had reached its peak and the authorities and directors of the administrative boards joined sides with the side of the nationalist party candidate quite conspicuously. It

showed in television and on the pages of the newspapers. The government employed in the last contest what is known as membership shock (tactics), that is it promised journalists new privileges if the regime's candidate won, for instance apartments, cars, refrigerators. These tactics succeeded and the members voted as the government wanted.

[Question] I know that you were waivering about nominating yourself as president for a second term, but you have done it anyway at the last moment. Is this true?

[Zuhayri] Last time I was already president and my determination to become engrossed in the union election was firm so my withdrawal could not be explained as coming out of irresolution. This time however, I am not in the union and for that reason I waited so that I would not enter into competition with any friend of mine who wanted to serve the union and might nominate himself as president--especially if were worthy of that (position). When I was certain that no one wanted the post I nominated myself for this burdensome position so that it would not appear to the whole world as if the union consented to the government's candidate during whose term all these violent measures against journalists and the press were committed-- as if we had sanctioned that violence.

I can abstain from the position of president because I was actively president on three occasions during the 'Abd al-Nasir and al-Sadat regimes alike. But I want to serve the union, and I have long experience in this field.

[Question] As president of the journalists' (union) what are the issues that you will adopt and seek to achieve?

[Zuhayri] There are many issues, but above all press freedom. This is the principal issue for two reasons (first): it strengthens democracy. The more a free press spreads the deeper democracy sinks into our country. This is desirable in and of itself for Egypt's own welfare.

(Second) Freedom of the press is the sole means the material standard of journalists; unrestricted freedom of the press would lead to a supply and demand for journalists. And that would raise their standard. The government's election promises to give newspapermen apartments and cars these are merely temporary measures and they will not materialize, and even if they did materialize this is not the required means nor a sure means to raise journalistic standards. I want to raise their material standards from within (the profession) by press freedom and not through the bribery of others.

I will also seek to get autonomy for the union from other branches of the government and to obtain guarantees for that. (Also I want) the union of newspapermen to be for all workers in the profession whether they are supporters or opponents all alike. The successful president is not the one who rewards his supporters but is the one who does justice to his opposition.

[Question] And how would you achieve press freedom?

[Zuhayri] By restoring the organization of journalistic structures, for example lifting the bans that prevent the publication of any new newspapers, or making the Supreme Press Council through elections, and restoring competent supervision over the composition of the national newspapers.

[Question] What did you give the newspapermen when you were previously president?

[Zuhayri] Many things like pay raises, but the most important of these things was the Union Act which gave many safeguards.

[Question] But the regime violated many of them, so what advantage was there then?

[Zuhayri] There is a difference here between the regime's oppression toward journalists when they do not have any legal basis to defend such actions and between the government's violating all laws and unlawfully attacking journalists. And even if the latter case were to happen there are some important safeguards like a union representative would be in attendance at the trial of the arrested journalist. Other important safeguards have clearly manifested themselves already in a number of instances when the union was strong enough and had some character and will, as when it refused to accede to the government's request that it determine those Egyptian newspapermen living overseas and strike them off the union's membership rolls.

[Question] Some have attributed the label of radical to you and that you represent the left wing. What is your view?

[Zuhayri] I consider myself moderate in extreme. Those who accuse me of being radical embrace the principles of Dulles, former Secretary of State of America, "If he's not for us, he's against us."

9587

CSO: 4504/207

OPPOSITION PAPER COMPLAINS OF RESOLUTION OF 'ISMAT AL-SADAT CASE

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Feb 83 p 7

[Article by Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad: "What Next, With the Conclusion of the Trial of 'Isamat Al-Sadat's Family?"]

[Text] The trial of 'Isamat al-Sadat and his family in the court of values has concluded with the imposition of sequestration on their property, which the Agency of the Socialist Prosecutor has estimated at about 125 million pounds, the continued detention of al-Sadat and his two sons Jalal and Tal'at, and the placement of his son Muhammad Anwar under detention for the period of a year, which can be renewed for further periods in accordance with a request presented to the court by the socialist prosecutor, provided that they not exceed 5 years in their totality. The convicted persons have the right to contest this verdict within 30 days before the higher court of values.

Thus the brother of the former president Anwar al-Sadat and the members of his family were found guilty in accordance with Law 95 for 1980 on Improperities, which had advocated and insisted on issuing with the objective of suppressing the spirits of the opposition to his regime. That was considered a heretical new innovation which had no equivalent in the other democratic countries, and the men of the law, headed by the judges, represented by the general assembly of their club, the lawyers, represented by their union, and all the national and political forces except for the ruling party stood against it. The people against whom decrees were issued in accordance with that also were detained, including some in the annex to the Turah Farm Prison — the same prison in which politicians, lawyers and journalists against whom a decree was issued by President al-Sadat in September 1981 were placed. That is a cautionary lesson to every ruler and official — that times change and that it cannot be ruled out that whatever one hatches to bring down one's adversaries might someday apply to one's own people and proponents. Let us have trust in God regarding the powers and responsibilities he entrusts to us, and let us believe that God is all-knowing and all-powerful.

I do not want to get into the charges that were directed against the persons who were found guilty. The circumstances of the verdict will deal with those analytically in detail and all citizens will be given an opportunity to read them when they are published. Rather, I would like, today, to wonder what will happen after the trial of 'Isamat al-Sadat's family. The target in interrogating

them about the charges leveled against them was not their relatives, as they imagine and allege, although they were tried on grounds that they were the people closest to the former president and ought to have been more careful than others about his reputation. The reputation of his regime has a great moral, which is that no one is immune from the sword of the law, even if he is the person closest to the ruler.

However, absolutely no one has imagined that the trial of 'Ismat al-Sadat's family would be the end of the story or that they were the only people against whom the charges of corruption and deviation could be levelled. Indeed, the purge must be general and comprehensive if the goal in the anti-corruption campaign is to be realized and a new spirit founded on chastity, integrity, the performance of one's duty and the fear of God is to be resurrected.

There is no room, as we said previously, to fear the publication of rumors or the fabrication of maneuvers to throw people's thoughts into confusion or spread disturbance through the marketplace. It is in the interests of honorable investors, as President Mubarak himself has said, that we clean the administration of the groups of new Al Capones.

By that I do not mean just what happened in a previous period. Rather, I would like to report that corruption is still widespread, as if nothing has changed. It is necessary to liquidate all the instances of deviation that have been disclosed by the oversight agencies and have appeared on the pages of the newspapers, and it is necessary to move quickly to stop all the new manifestations of corruption, or else the situation will remain as it is and people will believe what the relatives of 'Ismat al-Sadat are claiming, which is that the prosecution was subjective, what some people who are afraid that the purge campaign of today will publicize are saying, and what the people who defend them and defend those behind them are broadcasting, to the effect that the moves are personal ones whose goal is to divert people from the vexations of life and the problems of the society.

In addition, it is not permissible that attention be diverted by the peripheral facts which the interrogation of the family of 'Ismat al-Sadat unearthed or that negligence be committed in holding everyone to account—who helped them or made it easy for them to benefit and enrich themselves underservedly at the people's expense.

Why Weren't the Investigations Heard out to the End?

Perhaps the most important claim that one could observe in the investigations that the agency of the socialist prosecutor carried out into the al-Sadat family was the fact that they were [not] heard out in full so that the conditions would be manifested in general, so that it would be possible to rebuke everyone who has deviated from the straight path. Indeed, it appeared that they contented themselves just with matters that were related to 'Ismat and his family. That indicated that the objective was not a comprehensive purge; the defendants exploited this by saying that they, to the exclusion of others, were the targets, and made the defense attack the investigations.

Indeed, Anwar 'Ismat al-Sadat tried to benefit from that by stirring up a cloud of doubt regarding the Agency of the Socialist Prosecutor's position concerning the incident attributed to him, related to the defrauding of the sum of 28,000 pounds from Faruq 'Aql, the chairman of the board of the al-Shams Trade and Investment Company, because no presentation was made to him regarding the company's ownership of a plot of land of 4 feddans adjacent to the al-Shams Club in Heliopolis which he had bought from a citizen, above and beyond an additional 25,000 pounds in compensation for clearing away military police units and other equipment and fixtures belonging to others, in accordance with two contracts that had been concluded between the two of them. He claimed that the failure to complete the investigation of the fact and the failure to mention it at the beginning may be attributed to the lack of desire to stir up this incident, because there was a relationship by marriage between Faruq 'Aql and Counsellor 'Abd-al-Qadir Ahmad 'Ali, the socialist public prosecutor.

I referred to this fact in my previous article, which was based on material published in the daily press, and demanded that the socialist public prosecutor state his position and put matters in their proper perspective. An official in the Agency of the Socialist Public Prosecutor got in contact with me, thanked me and told me that Counsellor 'Abd-al-Qadir Ahmad 'Ali had not considered it appropriate to issue an explanatory statement, considering that the incident had been raised before the judiciary, that this relationship was restricted to the fact that his deceased brother had been married to his daughter, and that the fact was established in the two documents that had been signed by the two parties, stating that the company Faruq 'Aql represented was the one against which the act of fraud had been committed, and that the land had been purchased in its name, not in the name of Faruq 'Aql.

However, the failure to question Mr. Faruz 'Aql in the interrogations and the willingness to settle for the contents of the investigations of the state security investigator's office, and not to question the person who sold the land or the person who witnessed 'Ismat al-Sadat taking the former sum from them in exchange for waiving the contract to buy 2,000 [square]meters of land, kept the investigation from being complete, and inspired doubt and suspicion in the spirit of the defendant. This is what the defense sought to benefit from when it presented reports by General Intelligence, Administrative Surveillance and the Agency of the Socialist Prosecutor from a previous period (June 1972), taking note of his conduct.

Perhaps this might prompt us to wonder about the validity of the material in certain newspapers abroad to the effect that the investigation into 'Ismat al-Sadat extended to other persons, including 'Ali Safwat Ra'uf, the brother of Mrs. Jihan al-Sadat, against whom numerous notices were filed -- accusing him of influence peddling, the imposition of royalties and unlawful gain -- and to wonder whether the investigations into him had been completed, in order to get to the truth of the matter, or whether the interrogation had stopped at 'Ismat al-Sadat and his children, as has been rumored from time to time.

We also wonder about the permissibility of remaining silent about the point raised by one witness, no matter how much one may criticize his personal history or cast doubts on his behavior, to the effect that Prof Anwar Abu Sahli, when he was the public prosecutor, acted fraudulently with others

in order to obtain tape recordings containing confessions about certain members of 'Ismat al-Sadat's family to the effect that thousands of pounds had been appropriated from him by deceptive, unlawful means. If Prof Abu Sahli kept silent about this vile charge against the lofty judiciary position he was occupying — a charge that was published in the daily papers all-inclusively — the public interest dictates that a thorough investigation into this incident be performed, especially since the witness has expressed his readiness to mention other details in a closed session. Indeed, the present public prosecutor and the Higher Judiciary Council must demand that this charge be openly aired, because it has inflicted harm on the respect and awe that are required by this great position, which is considered a guarantor of the people against arbitrary action and the violation of law, since if it is proved that any unacceptable excesses have been committed by the person occupying the position, decisive measures must be taken to guarantee that integrity is present in the people who assume this position. If it is proved that this charge is not valid, it will be necessary to adopt the mandatory legal measures with respect to the persons casting doubt on the integrity of the person occupying it.

The Need To Remedy Administrative Disruptions and Deficiencies in Legislation in the Light of the Revelations of the Investigations

With the conclusion of the trial of the family of 'Ismat al-Sadat, the matter must not stop at the prosecution of all the persons who committed corrupt and deviant acts, whether or not they were connected to this case; rather, it is necessary to remedy the administrative disruptions that these investigations have revealed, which make it easy for persons who engage in corruption to pursue their deviant activities, and the defects that exist in the present legislation, which have made it possible for people to go about the attainment of unlawful goals, must be thwarted. Negligence in this regard will have the effect of permitting what has happened to be repeated.

Perhaps the declaration the plaintiff's representative made on the violations that occurred in the Mit Abu-al-Kawm Cooperative Building Society, whose board chairman was 'Ismat al-Sadat, caused him to sound a warning, on grounds that what occurred in this society was only an example of what is happening in a number of cooperative building and housing societies, since the people's intense need for housing has been exploited by the members of their boards to commit deviant acts that exceed everyone's imaginings and whose victims are the many citizens who lose the money they have saved in a lifetime, whereas these societies are supposed to be subject to the surveillance of the Housing Cooperative Federation and the General Building Cooperative Authority.

Don't citizens who are attracted by the brilliant word "cooperation" to consign their life's savings to the people concealed behind it, so that they can find a solution to their housing problem, have the right to receive a minimum of protection from the government against tramps and thieves? If the chairman of the General Building Cooperative Federation justified the weak nature of this protection, or the absence of it on occasion, by the inflated number of cooperative housing societies and the small number of employees in the oversight agency, this situation amounts to an administrative disruption that ought to be rectified by setting out conditions that will guarantee that this deviant con-

duct and deceit, which are aimed at plundering the property of honorable citizens, be prevented, by demanding that the number of people working in the agency overseeing these societies be increased and that agreement not be given to the establishment of new societies until the soundness of the bases on which they are founded and the good reputation and competence of the people running them are reaffirmed.

Perhaps we might wonder, now that all this organized deception aimed at appropriating the property of well intentioned citizens has been revealed, and the assistant socialist prosecutor has sounded the bell of danger, whether the government has acted; whether it has formed a committee with a fixed schedule to offer guarantees that will ensure that thieves and deviant persons will not exploit the cooperative movement to achieve their aims of plundering people's property; whether the status of the housing cooperatives against which there are complaints has been investigated, if only by delegation by other agencies, to spare the victims of these disruptions and to deter people exploiting the shingles of housing cooperatives; and whether the officials who have received complaints and telegrams on them but have not acted, and have stayed silent, have been held to account.

What Did the Ministry of Justice Do Regarding the Problem of Provisions on the Validity and Enforceability of Sham Contracts?

One thing that is connected to the matter of the housing cooperatives -- indeed goes beyond that to the affairs of government and honest citizens -- is the recourse to the conclusion of contracts by sham sellers who claim to own other person's land, so that they can sell land to a speculative buyer who then claims that there is a dispute between him and the seller and seeks recourse with the judiciary to manage to get a verdict issued on the validity and enforceability of the sales contracts, so that they will be considered documents supporting the alleged ownership.

This phenomenon, which is a threat to property and helps facilitate techniques of extortion and violations and imparts a character of legitimacy to them, has become so widespread that it has become necessary, in terms of legislation to set out rules and conditions to guarantee that this speculation will be prevented and to provide proof of the buyer's equity before the rulings on the validity and enforceability of the sales contracts are issued.

In fact, so-called events of factional strife that occurred in al-Zawiyah al-Hamra' in June 1981 were basically caused by a struggle between the governorate and a citizen regarding the ownership of a plot of land, regarding whose sales contract's validity and enforceability a judiciary ruling had been issued which the governorate was contesting. Weren't these events a guarantee that this phenomenon, which had become widespread in the country, should be studied? Or was the matter just a government ruling "by the truncheon?"

Thanks to the Men of the Judiciary from the Executive Power Are Not Acceptable

Many people were amazed when Counsellor Husni 'Abd-al-Hamid, the assistant socialist prosecutor, who represented the plaintiff in the 'Ismat al-Sadat case,

presented a strong attack on corruption, made an appeal for a comprehensive purge, revealed many points of disruption in the government apparatus, demanded that exceptions in the disposition of building material or the installation of telephone and telex lines be eliminated and warned officials that it was necessary to conduct surveillance over acts of deviation in housing cooperatives.

It appears that he was chosen to present the argument as a representative of the plaintiff in this case, although he was not the one who had conducted the investigation in it or one of the persons who investigated it, because of the oratorical and declarative powers he has, as far as I can tell. However, he was harsh in describing the defendants by characterizing them as a "tyrannical, biased gang, wayward and deceptive, who were nursed on unlawful things; when they reached the age to be weaned, the unlawful things were made permissible for them in the search for illegal gain and their status rose in 'Isamat al-Sadat protested against that more than once, claiming that this characterization included his brother, the former president, and the chairman of the court ordered that the expression "they were nursed on unlawful things" be omitted from the transcript of the session. The representative of the plaintiff had sought to prove that he had no background of opposition to the al-Sadat family. He said, as the newspaper Al-AHRAM, "Let me remind you of the era of the late Anwar, when I stood here on this tribunal, in the case of the director of the university, and, when we shook him and he cried out in accusation against President al-Sadat and said 'But he is president al-Sadat and the lady his wife' I told him, 'Sir, the papers are between us and the president has nothing to do with us, or the lady either; we are working for the sake of the truth.' Here the president, may God have mercy on him, sent for me, saying, 'I want this kind of man working for the sake of the truth.'"

It startled me to see that Counsellor Husni 'Abd-al-Hamid, who is a member of the judiciary, should boast in a judiciary case about thanks directed to him by the president, who is in charge of the executive authority, for work he performed that lay within the duties of his position. I believe that he knows the story of the late Mahmud Pasha Hasan, the chairman of the court of cessation, who, when he returned a letter of thanks he had received from the minister of law (now the minister of justice), refused to receive it, mentioning in his letter, "Anyone who has the ability to directed praise has the ability to direct blame, and, since I would not accept to have blame directed at me from you for my work as a judge, then I must excuse myself from accepting your praise."

This was in addition to the fact that the university director he was referring to did not point to the relationship between the subject of the charge against him and al-Sadat and his wife during the investigations or before the court of values, and that the reference to that was not made by the lawyers defending him before the court until it issued its verdict on 12 October 1980. Rather, he raised that later, in the press, in his book "My Ordeal" and before the criminal court in the unlawful gain case which on 12 January 1982 issued a verdict of innocence, according to the files concerning this subject in my possession. Perhaps the matter was confusing to the representative of the plaintiff, owing to the commingling and proliferation of the cases bearing on

a single subject, and it is for this reason that we demand that this overlap [of jurisdictions] be eliminated, contrary to the view which Counsellor Husni 'Abd-al-Hamid, the assistant socialist public prosecutor, has expressed.

The fact that the Agency of the Socialist Prosecutor plays a part in combating corruption does not prevent us from continuing to demand that the Law on Impropropriety, the Law Regulating the Imposition of Sequestration, and other exceptional laws be abrogated, since the ordinary laws, and their enforcement under the aegis of the normal judiciary, are fully competent to prosecute persons who act corruptly and impose more severe penalties, while providing every guarantee for the people they try, without causing the emergence of chaos which the partisans and assistants of people who commit deviant acts can exploit.

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PROBLEMS OF ILLITERACY, INFERIOR TRAINING AMONG WORKERS EXPLORED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19, 20 Feb 83

/Article by Mahmud Mu'awwad and Ahmad Nasr-al-Din: "Illiteracy is the Number One Enemy of Development and the Manpower Shortage is the Number Two Danger; How To Confront It?"/

/19 Feb 83 p 3/

/Text/ It is certain that the eradication of illiteracy is the crucial issue in Egypt and that we must mobilize all our efforts to bring it about.

Although we have spent about 36 years fighting illiteracy so far, we have not made any progress worth mentioning!

The seminal confrontation that is underway now has come about to this end, along the road to the elimination of illiteracy, which the experts, at their latest meeting, declared to be the number one enemy of the development programs.

The experts also wonder if it is reasonable to continue giving voters ballots with distinctive symbols.

And whether it is reasonable that some anti-illiteracy centers in some governorates should be shut down on the pretext that there is no budget.

The letter Dr Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din sent to the Higher Anti-Illiteracy Council on the occasion of the first meeting it held, under the chairmanship of the deputy prime minister and minister of education, after it was formed in accordance with the new law, occurs as an expression of the gravity of the phenomenon threatening development in Egypt.

The situation has reached the point where anti-illiteracy centers have been closed in some governorates because there are no budgets, the stipulation of being able to read and write in the case of drivers dealing with human lives has been abrogated, and the anti-illiteracy budgets are in constant decline, in spite of the high rate of illiteracy in rural areas.

What does the Higher Authority for the Planning of Anti-Illiteracy Programs say, in the effort to come up with a true sharp definition of the cultural personality of man?

Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, the deputy prime minister, minister of education and chairman of the council, says "The new law stipulates that the eradication of illiteracy is a national and political responsibility, and to that end the formation of the Higher Council for Adult Education and the Elimination of Illiteracy has been decreed. It will include representatives of all the opposition parties. In spite of the apparent high rate of illiteracy in the rural areas compared to the rate in urban areas (it was 67.4 percent in the rural areas in 1981 while it was 36.9 percent in the urban areas), the sources of illiteracy are being closed off by the attainment of the stage of total absorption in the admission of compulsory education students (the rate of absorption at the end of the plan will reach 96 percent, and it now represents 88 percent of the number of compulsory students), and by the reduction of losses and attrition, whose rate now comes to 12 percent, whereas it was 45 percent at the start of the fifties.

"In addition, there is the establishment of one-classroom schools in low-population hamlets and villages whose children cannot enroll in ordinary schools. These schools come to 30,000 in number. The compulsory education period has been extended to 9 school years, in order to include the preparatory stage."

The deputy prime minister said, "The council is responsible for coping with the phenomenon of illiteracy in a national manner, out of service and allegiance to Egypt and in order to preserve the identity and dignity of the Egyptians."

The Mother Is the Basis in the Eradication of Illiteracy

Dr Mahmud Mahfuz, chairman of the Local Government Committees in the Consultative Assembly and member of the assembly, says, "The basis in the eradication of illiteracy is the mother, considering that she is the basis in the formation of the personality of the child. Nonetheless, statistics assert that there is a high rate of illiteracy among women, which is serious, because someone who lacks something cannot offer it."

Dr Mahfuz proposes a new idea, which is that the academic year be 6 months, with no vacations, along with an additional 2 months for examinations and results, while the remaining 4 months of the year would be devoted to the eradication of illiteracy. It would thereby be possible to eradicate it.

Dr Muhammad Ahmad Khalafallah, the Grouping Party representative in the council, says, "We must specify the parties' role regarding this national issue. Is the matter confined to the eradication of illiteracy among people who belong to these parties, or does their role extend to other persons?"

Dr Khalaf wonders about the role, responsibility and contribution of cultural agencies in the nationwide campaign. The representative of the Grouping

Party praises the Ministry of Defense experience, asserting that it is necessary to train recruits in village development methods in the last 6 months of their conscription period so that they will be able to carry that out once they are discharged and go back to their villages. If the Ministry of Education had been able to extend the period of compulsory education, that would have sufficed.

A Real Revolution Is Required, Not a Revolution of Slogans

Dr Samir Sirhan, the chairman of the Central Department in the Ministry of Culture and a member of the council, proposes that a start be made with an experimental pilot project in one or two governorates or fillages and that the role of each government sector relative to the experiment be defined.

He asserts that there cannot be real development if this tremendous amount of illiterates exists and that it is necessary that the people actually sense that there are practical solutions. The situation requires a real revolution, not a revolution of slogans, so that the people will move from one stage to the next.

Fu'ad Nushi, representative of the Socialist Labor Party in the council and counsellor in the Arab Education, Science and Culture Organizations, says, "One should note that the government is not allocating adequate amounts of money to the elimination of illiteracy and that the anti-illiteracy programs on radio and television are not effective, since they are broadcast at times and in a manner which are not appropriate. What happened in al-Minufiyah is to be considered a serious sign. The anti-illiteracy centers were closed on the pretext that there was no budget. We as a developing country must go beyond the framework of study, research and statistics. Our libraries have become full of numerous books and studies, and the matter has become wholly clear and needs execution only." The Labor Party representative recommends that a start be made on a campaign on a limited scale to eradicate illiteracy among government workers, and the government should make the eradication of illiteracy among children working in mechanical shops and other places compulsory. Serious emphasis should be placed on illiteracy.

The Liberal Party representative, Muhammad Murad al-Bastami, who is a member of the council, says "What is needed now is the serious eradication of illiteracy before we move on to other forms of illiteracy. We have large numbers of illiterate persons and in addition many illiterate school dropouts who are working in departments and organizations and are given raises and promotions, in violation of the provisions of the law."

The Liberal Party recommends that each university student be given an opportunity to eradicate illiteracy among a specific number of people, whose determination will be left to officials in the university, and that attention be given to that when the student comes up to be evaluated.

War Staff Maj Gen Mustafa Mahmud, the vice chairman of the Training Authority in the Ministry of Defense, says, "The process of the eradication of

illiteracy must be given top priority in each governorate, the system of incentives must be adopted, and the ministry must graduate 20,572 persons with craft skills, 15,406 drivers, and 29,278 persons of various occupations every year as well as eradicating illiteracy among soldiers."

The State of the Current Cost of Illiterates

Dr 'Abd al-Fattah Jalal, the director of the Regional Adult Education Center, says, "We need to set out the financial cost of illiterates at the present time, determine negative and positive bonuses and concentrate on the category of up to age 25, since that is the productive age. Here the role of the Ministries of Defense and the Interior stand out; special priority must be given to the education of women in rural areas, and attention must be given to pockets of backwardness of illiterates in the organized sectors. The notion of the eradication of illiteracy must be dealt with in the framework of the occupation, since merely restricting oneself to the alphabet, to the exclusion of living contents, will cause education to lose its real meaning and substance."

Dr 'Abd al-Dayim al-Ansari, member of the council and a person who is interested in the anti-illiteracy issue, says, "We prepared a 10-year plan for the eradication of illiteracy in 1964 and the result was that illiteracy increased. We must start by teaching reading and writing. That is the method that God wanted to be followed with our lord Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, since the first of the Koranic verses was revealed with the word 'write.' As the prophet of God, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, told the prisoners of the Badr raid, 'Teach them how to read and write.' After that comes the elimination of national illiteracy, and so forth."

A Special Fund To Deal with Illiteracy

Dr al-Ansari recommends that a special fund be established to deal with illiteracy to which citizens will make contributions, /stating/ "We must take account of the job of mobile libraries in protecting against reversions to illiteracy. The mosque can carry out its mission in getting illiterate people to memorize the Koran in written and recited form.

"People should not be admitted to membership in parties until the member has contributed by eliminating illiteracy among 10 people."

Dr al-Ansari adds that it is possible to use cardboard chalkboards whose prices do not exceed 10 piasters apiece.

Dr Kamil Laylah, president of 'Ayn Shams University and member of the council, says "The actual fact of illiteracy in Egypt is painful by any statistics we might adopt. The issue is one of dignity and one of civilization, and the problem must have a solution, because, if a solution is out of the question, it will turn into a normal situation. We must benefit from the experience of China, which is not a rich country but rather one which, through determination, insistence and self-discipline, became a country competing with the advanced

ones. We now need to mount a comprehensive campaign for which all efforts and resources will be mobilized, even if the situation requires that the universities be shut down 6 months a year to reach the objective desired."

Closing off the Sources of Illiteracy in Accordance with a Firm Plan

Isma'il Ra'fat, sector chief in the Central Mobilization and Statistics Agency and member of the council, says "We must divide illiterate persons up into three groups. First are employees in the government and the public sector, then there are the people working in the private sector, tradesmen and farmers, and then, lastly, there is the household sector, the housewives. One should start by closing off the sources of illiteracy through all possible means. Then a firm plan should be promulgated in accordance with priorities. There are difficulties in the way of the job eradicating illiteracy, for example rural women who have children and tradesmen who have tended to draw their children into their occupations so that their income can increase. A person who eradicates illiteracy among a specific number of people must be dealt with as a person who is performing military service. The anti-illiteracy program must include the memorization of a number of verses of the holy Koran, which will keep people from reverting to illiteracy because of their frequent recital of them."

A Final Statement

Finally, now that the authorities responsible for planning have set up programs for the elimination of illiteracy, which has become a striking phenomenon, the responsibility for confrontation and for taking the initiative now lies with this council, so that it will turn slogans into reality and so that we can close off the serious sources of all forms of illiteracy in our country. It is not reasonable that the increasing human resources which Egypt is proud of should become an unhealthy symbol of the Egypt of civilization and progress.

/20 Feb 83 p 3/

/Text/ While illiteracy is the primary danger threatening development programs, the emigration of manpower constitutes the number two danger, drawing skilled, trained labor, a human treasure which it is difficult to replace, out from under the feet of every development plan that has the goal of increasing production.

At the same time, it is a serious drain of the human resources which Egypt possesses, which we have sacrificed many long years in training and preparing. Here the experts are sounding the warning bell before their enlarged meeting at the end of this month under the chairmanship of the minister of manpower to study the dimensions of this serious issue which has never been subjected to scientific research but has been abandoned for many years in which no creature paid attention to it, until the odious condition we are suffering from now came about.

The important thing now is to come together so that we can discuss why the Egyptian worker is packing up his reserves of skill and technical ability and traveling from Egypt to the various countries of this wide world.

The issue, therefore, is serious, and the experts' warnings are unceasing and perennial. These experts are the experts with the national specialized councils;

The Central Agency for Mobilization and Statistics; and, in addition, the experts in the other ministries concerned. The main party to the issue are the workers themselves. At the beginning, Ibrahim al-Azhari, chairman of the Office of Young Workers of Egypt, asks that the criteria of performance be divided up into classes by years, in accordance with years of experience and abilities. This will ultimately result in the retention of the older capable personnel so that young workers can be given the fruits of their years of sweat and production. This requires that these young people have a sense for the value of work and expertise in a manner that will eventually result in limiting migration, which drains off Egyptian labor, with foreign markets sucking its blood away under the aegis of the reality of the impact of price differentials.

At the same time, Hamdi Mursi, member of the General Post and Telegraph Union, asserts that it is necessary to have material and moral incentives and that performance standards be specified in accordance with a new outlook which will focus on the fact that production must stimulate the labor unions to provide applied and real training programs to raise the level of the Egyptian worker.

What, however, do Egyptian manpower experts say on this seminal issue, which is of concern to 13 million Egyptian workers, who constitute the real base of industry?

The experts assert that there is an obvious deficiency in many types of labor, at its different levels, and the current opportunities for education and training are failing to make up for it. This can be attributed to a lack of practical coordination among graduates of various stages of general education and technical training, because of the absence of a strategy for comprehensive long range development, to the increased emigration of workers and to the failure of educational policy to graduate craftsmen and skilled workers, especially since there are a lack of clear balance between educational policy and the structure of labor in Egypt, a deficiency in existing training resources, and a paucity of investments directed to rural areas. Meanwhile, industries and services are being established in urban areas, which has helped draw unskilled labor to the towns, and this has resulted in a severe shortage in the agricultural labor required in the rural areas.

The experts and specialists attribute the causes of the shortage in skilled technical labor to a number of points, foremost among which is the emigration of 10 percent of the people with intermediate and below-intermediate credentials. The gravity of this point becomes apparent when one realizes that 14,000 workers a year have contracted with a single country, Saudi Arabia, in fields of specialization which Egypt requires in large volumes.

Training at a Snail's Pace!

One cause which has led to the deterioration in this situation is the fact that education and training agencies in Egypt have not been able to act quickly.

The gravity of this point, as well, is apparent in the point that the fact that the institutes for preparing technicians can accommodate only about 20 percent of the people who have passed the general secondary has added to the poor quality of the educational process. That is, the numbers of people admitted to universities and higher institutes come to three times the people admitted to the institutes for preparing technicians, while the volume of demand in the labor structure requires the opposite.

Statistics confirm that about 3 million citizens in the 12 to 18 age group are outside the general and technical education system but ought to have been absorbed by institutes which train, one, building and construction workers; two, fine equipment and machinery operators; three, land reclamation and agricultural mechanics; four, nurses; five, tourist and hotel workers; six, advanced secretarial workers; seven, modern household appliance maintenance men; eight, mechanical workers; nine, transport and communications workers; 10, food processing workers; 11, refrigeration and air conditioning workers; 12, modern commercial office workers; 13, export and marketing workers; and aides in X-rays, analysis, dentistry, laboratories and medical services.

Preliminary estimates indicate that requirements for classes of technicians are appraised at about 8,000 a year up to 1985, while the average amounts of people graduated from institutes for training technicians does not exceed 1,800 in the building and construction sector. Investments in this sector in 1985 are estimated at about 2.11 billion pounds, for a labor force estimated at about 433,000. However, the output of training in existing centers and available sources does not exceed 10,000.

The urgent, decisive solution, according to the urgent plan, is to promote basic education, provide the necessary resources and equipment for it and create a format for cooperation among training agencies, while reviewing the policy of admissions to general education levels.

In the training sector, it will be necessary to hasten at once to provide training personnel for the training agencies and centers at the right levels while preparing training programs to meet actual needs for the skills required for jobs and the skills needed to prepare skilled workers. This will be accompanied by the provision of levels of skill for each occupation, which will require a review of the abrogation of the pricing of certificates and the setting of wages in accordance with the job, while making it mandatory that the existing shortage be stemmed and the provision of programs to raise the skill levels of workers at production sites be expanded, especially since 85 percent of the group of production workers have not received any kind of education and training.

In general, it is necessary to provide the fiscal allocations necessary to accelerate the execution of the training programs now being set up, to reduce the administrative and financial obstacles to execution, and rapidly to make disbursements from the loans and grants that have been allocated.

The Medium-Range Plan to 1986

The medium-range plan is aimed at:

1. Determining demand for labor in the coming 5 years, broken down by the various fields of specialization and professions.
2. Determining the labor needed for expansions and new projects.
3. Estimating the labor in foreign markets by studying quantitative trends in emigration on the basis of data of the Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs over the past 5 years, with the objective of estimating the numbers of people the markets are expected to require.
4. Determining the graduating classes in education and training courses.
5. Preparing tables for converting educational and training areas of specialization into occupations.
6. Comparing the demand for labor with graduating classes in education and training, to create a balance between trained graduates and the demands of the labor market, and giving these indices to educational and training agencies.

The Solution up to 2000

Experts stress that a successful, final solution can be obtained only by setting out a plan for this up to 2000 which has the objective of ensuring the full optimum use of labor.

To attain these goals, the situation requires first of all that a comprehensive development plan be set out which is founded on realistic bases.

Forecasting the average increase in national income in accordance with the policies the government sets out, then setting out an income redistribution policy in a manner which will guarantee that wages are linked to production and social justice through wage policies on the one hand and taxes of all types on the other.

Forecasting the population, classified by groups on the basis of age, type and family groups in rural and urban areas, which have different consumption patterns and needs.

Computing the per capita consumption of the population in various stages of the long-range plan on the basis of population, population characteristics

and income available to each group, by developing the family budget research which the Central Agency for Statistics conducts each year.

Computing government consumption.

Computing the products that the government intends to produce for export, on the basis of studies it carries out on foreign markets, through which it is possible to compute the necessary ultimate production.

Translating these expansions into productive projects and translating these projects into labor.

Calculating the labor the foreign markets need, in the form of Egyptian labor.

Comparing the total of these numbers with the number of people that are expected to enter the labor market, then reviewing plan projects with the changes of technology used in /line missing/.

Translating these numbers into areas of specialization and levels of education and training.

The question now is, what has been done by the Higher Manpower Planning Council which was established by Republican Decree 795 for 1976, which stresses the need to monitor and supervise the execution of the decrees that are issued by this council? Or does the responsible ministry take charge of this responsibility directly?

In any event, the whole issue will be facing officials at their meeting this week. We will leave the task of discussing and taking decisions to them.

The skilled laborer who has fled abroad has become a rare Egyptian commodity in the local and foreign markets. The question is, where is he now?

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JUDGE WHO REPEALED RESTRICTIVE DECREES CONDEMNS THEIR ARBITRARINESS

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Feb 83 pp 10, 11

[Interview of Counsellor Sa'd Abu 'Awf by Majdi Muhanna: "Counsellor Abu 'Awf Tells AL-SHA'B: Egypt Is Not Familiar with Factional Strife and the 'Strife of 1981' Was Alien to It"]

[Text] Counsellor Sa'd Abu 'Awf has emerged from his silence and given his first press interview, to AL-SHA'B, a full year since the ruling he issued abrogating the decrees on the September 1981 attack that arrested 1,536 persons, transferred one journalist and 64 university professors, and sequestered Pope Shannudah.

The historic ruling abrogating the September decrees was not the only stand he has made. It was preceded by another one, in 1970, when the general assembly of the Council of State was summoned to an urgent meeting to discuss the Law on Causes so that it would be rejected and the judges' objection to it could be recorded.

At that time, a secret war was going on against Counsellor Sa'd Abu 'Awf which prompted him to offer his resignation from the Agency on the Liquidation of Sequestration and relinquish the position of minister.

This war shifted from his own person to the notion of eliminating the Council of State, and the preparation of a purge of judges who had been causing problems.

[AL-SHA'B:] At the time the ruling abrogating the September decrees was issued in February of last year, the government counsellor told me that the September attack was tantamount to a great fire and Counsellor Abu 'Awf had come along as a volunteer to put this fire out.

What do you suppose your evaluation is, now that a whole year has elapsed since the issuance of this ruling?

[Sa'd Abu 'Awf:] You must realize that my conviction regarding this ruling and the reasons on which it was based is increasing every day. My conviction in its soundness has never faltered. My personal feelings and political opinions had nothing to do with this conviction: rather, it was the view of a judge who sits down at the judge's tribunal.

It did not occur to me to play the role of a fireman on the fire that the September decrees had ignited; there was no fire, and there was no strife. [Even]

if we assume that there was, then there was nothing to justify the adoption of these measures which were issued, detaining this great host of citizens and transferring journalists and university professors to the Ministries of Supply, Agriculture and Local Government.

The circumstances of the contestation of these decrees were critical and their preparation was surrounded by an atmosphere that was legitimate and constitutional on the outside. The difficulty occurred when the people voted in a referendum on them and they acquired a surface immunity, once the people had given their agreement. This agreement was the subject of comments on the part of the men of the law in the course of the case. It is to the people, as is well known, that the source of authority belongs, and no other authority, aside from the people, has the right to demand that these measures be abrogated or that they be replaced or amended.

The government made the defense that the court did not have the competence to review these decrees, on the argument that they were outside the oversight of the judiciary and that the people who had filed cases on the abrogation of the September decrees had no interest in doing so. There was not a single detainee or person who had been afflicted by harm among them. The government also used the defense that the suit could not be accepted, since 60 days had elapsed since the issuance of the detainment decrees.

This was a great fraud. The legal principle which holds "There can be no suit unless interests are involved" does not apply to this case.

The board of the court concluded that the lawyers who had ventured to file the suits to abrogate these decrees had an interest in them, even if no delegation of powers was granted to them by the persons who had been detained. This suit was analogous to imprisonment in Islamic law: as long as the detention is in effect, interests are still present. The date of the contestation of the decrees is not subject to being terminated and is not limited to a specific period of time.

[AL-SHA'IR:] In the opinion of many people, the incident of the podium was a way out of the dilemma to which you had succumbed, in reviewing this case.

Was there a dilemma in the matter? If the incident of the podium had not occurred, what might have happened, bearing in mind that violent reactions might have broken out in the event a ruling had been issued abrogating the September decrees?

[Sa'id Abu 'Awf] (interrupting): That is not true. The incident of the podium was not a way out of a dilemma, at least as far as I personally was concerned. It is true that judges are human beings and are affected by the political circumstances around them. However, it is also true that judges are able to isolate themselves from themselves and to confine their studies and research on an issue to the legal context alone. That is a task which I would not call easy or simple. It cost me a sort of psychological suffering during the period of the review of the case. With thanks to God, we put every outside influence behind the legal investigation. As a consequence, the incident of the podium did not influence the decree we issued.

Do not forget our position on the Law on Impropriety. That came before the incident of the podium and before the September decrees. I summoned the general assembly of the Council of State to an emergency meeting to discuss the draft of the law and I prepared a memorandum rejecting the draft. I then presented it to the assembly, and it received the unanimous agreement of the members. We conveyed the assembly's resolution to the officials at that time, one of whom was Anwar Abu Sahli, the minister of justice, and he conveyed it to the president.

That position was not an easy one for us to take. It was well known that President al-Sadat had embraced that law and had assigned maximum importance to it. I know what harm could befall the people who opposed that law: However, the harm was calculated as far as I went, a material form of harm that I was prepared to bear.

The period of my loan from the Council of State to the Agency for the Liquidation of Sequestrations had ended and to renew it required receipt of agreement by the minister of justice to a request from the minister of finance that the period of my loan be renewed. In fact, the new minister of finance did make the request and I realized that the minister of justice, in his capacity as chairman of the Higher Council of Judiciary Boards, would object and reject the renewal, because of my position regarding the Law on Impropriety. I offered my resignation from the Sequestration Agency before the minister of justice could make the rejection.

Directly after that I left Cairo for Alexandria to prevent any pressures on the part of the Ministry of Finance for the withdrawal of this resignation. The ministry did not know the reasons which prompted me to offer it.

What I had expected then happened. The minister of justice did not agree to the renewal of my loan to the Agency of Sequestration but was surprised that I had presented my resignation.

The harm that had befallen me by dropping off the ministerial chair I had been occupying as the chairman of the Agency for the Liquidation of Sequestration befall other colleagues.

The minister of justice, Anwar Abu Sahli, had promised Counsellor 'Atif Khalil that he would agree that he could be loaned out to work in Bahrain; the position this colleague took on the Law on Impropriety caused the minister to reject his going out on loan. This colleague had actually contracted to work there, and that had compelled him to offer his resignation to the Council of State.

I faced another situation: that was that my name was ignored when a member for the higher administrative court in the Council of State was selected. This is the department that has jurisdiction to review cases of political parties. Members who had been transferred to retirement before me and after me were chosen for the same judiciary year. Nonetheless I was not thinking about that position and would not have agreed to take it, because that was a court of

appeals in its composition and procedures and is considered out of harmony with the judiciary system, which recognizes only specialized judges.

Concerning the reaction which he had anticipated, Counsellor Sa'd Abu 'Awf said,

"Naturally I had taken a partial, calculated reaction into account, which I spoke to you about, namely that I would be deprived of some material benefits in exchange for being loaned out or delegated to certain activities or being deprived of certain other employment benefits. "Regarding the comprehensive or complete reaction, it occurred to me when the case was in progress that it could get to the point where the Council of State would be eliminated or a judiciary purge would be carried out, another judiciary massacre. However, I did not surrender to these dangers, because, had matters reached that point, mine would have been the least of the misfortunes."

[AL-SHA'IB:] But does Article 74 of the constitution give all the powers that were used in the September attack to the people who used them?

[Sa'd Abu 'Awf:] Article 74 of the constitution does not give the president, in the circumstances of the September attack, any power over any decree that is issued. All decrees were subject to ordinary laws in terms of criminal or administrative responsibility.

The laws on the press, for example, regulate the method for disciplining journalists. Consequently, there was nothing to justify the transfer of this large number of journalists without any investigations, on the basis of personal rancor or inaccurate information.

Egypt and France

Article 74 did not exist in the original draft of the Egyptian constitution (1971), but was added to the final formulation under the aegis of a special committee.

That article was not in harmony with the other provisions of the constitution. The text was transferred from Article 16 of the French constitution, from a time when the French army in Algeria threatened to attack the constitutional authorities in France and eliminate the democratic systems there so that the military men could take power. The president, DeGaulle, had to take exceptional temporary measures in violation of the constitution. The objective was to support democracy, preserve the constitutional authority and do away with the military coup.

What happened in the September attack was not aimed at supporting the constitutional legitimacy and the freedoms and rights the constitutional legitimacy and the freedoms and rights the constitution had guaranteed to every citizen. What was said about factional strife, if true, could have been remedied by the Penal Code.

[AL-SHA'IB:] Was the case a source of psychological irritation or pain for you? Did you at any specific moment wish that it had been reviewed by another judge?

[Sa'd Abu 'Awf:] I felt total confidence that the study of these decrees was sound and legal. We did not preoccupy ourselves with asking about the decree that our studies might formulate and consequently the case was not a source of psychological irritation or anxiety as far as I was concerned. To the contrary, I tried to extend the duration of the case. I gave the government a full opportunity to defend itself, in spite of the dominance of the tendency on the part of the remaining members of the board of the court in the ruling on the case, that the September decrees should be abrogated.

While I did not deny that some people's positions shook me to the core during the course of the proceedings, the effect of these positions passed away quickly.

I can remember that the wives and families of the detainees appeared in the courtroom.

I can remember that Dr 'Ismat Sayf-al-Dawlah, the lawyer, attended, defending the detainees on the day following his release! Dr 'Ismat, in spite of the bitterness of his detention and his personal experience, demanded that the case be postponed so that the government could take an adequate position to carry out its promise to release the rest of the detainees.

I also remember the case of Pope Shannudah, and the fact that a large number of lawyers volunteered to defend him. A large number of them were Moslems, and they were the most zealous in demanding that the decree putting the pope in seclusion be abrogated.

At that time, I had the feeling that factional strife was not known to Egypt and that that strife was alien to it.

The Christian lawyer was agreeing to the government's demand that the case be postponed, so that it could ready itself to prepare its statements, while the Moslem lawyer was not won over to the request for the postponement -- he insisted on the demand that a ruling be made on the suit and that it be reserved for a verdict.

In this case, the notion of national unity among Moslems and Copts became manifest, and that is a sight that shook me to the depths of my being.

[AL-SHA'BI:] It remains for us to learn about your personal opinion on the September attack and how this verdict abrogating the September decrees was passed.

[Sa'd Abu 'Awf:] I tried, as far as I was able, to make a distinction between two things, my own opinion and that of the judge, although I did not hide the fact that the measures that were taken on 5 September were in no way connected to legitimacy, and had no backing in any constitution or law, but were a great step backward, in the progress of democracy. No such measure had occurred in the harshest conditions in previous times.

At the end of his discourse, Sa'd Abu 'Awf said,

"The board of the court was anxious that the proceedings be carried out in a calm atmosphere and it was anxious that all viewpoints be heard, whether they supported these decrees or opposed them.

"The proceedings took place out of our desire to provide a sound atmosphere outside the hall of the court and in places where every member could express his opinion calmly, free from surveillance, and discuss the ideas of others quietly."

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CSO: 4504/206

LAWYER'S UNION HOTLY CONTESTS GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Feb 82 p 9

[Text] The Lawyer's Act Proposal Goes to the Review Committee. The Proposed Program is a Partisan Paper which Aims at a Ruling for a Union. Once again... the executive branch of the government has been revealed for its lies and for what it is, and under the dome of parliament the lawyers have exposed it... so that they could express once more their anger at the (regime's) maneuvers to impose its current policy on their union--which since its establishment in 1912 has defended the causes of liberty and democracy often under circumstances much more dangerous than those of today.

The regime did not meet with success when it resorted to scandalous acts. But no, how quickly it was exposed: The meeting of the legislative committee of the second hearing held last Thursday to hear the lawyers' views turned into a bloody battle. The blows and shouts grew more pitched.... The events almost led to disaster were it not for the grace of God alone when the counsellor Ahmad Musa finally reached his decision to adjourn the meeting before the crisis got out of hand.

There were some lawyers who observed what happened both openly and behind the scenes. There was one faction which surreptitiously tried to spread dissension among the same ranks which uphold their union completely. The biggest jolt to the regime came when the Tawfiq Hushaysh affair was exposed. He is a lawyer who was one who used to interrupt every speaker in a vain attempt to deepen disunity and crisis.

The majority has already announced its disgust with the legislation proposal which was advanced by the Nationalist Party. Ahmad al-Khawaga and Ahmad Nasir rejected out of hand the uselessness of the measures already taken; both the committee's appeal to hold a meeting and the constitutionality and legitimacy of the proposed law's program. The crude assault which the government in collusion with the legislature has led against the judiciary is accountable for the 5 March issuance of the decision on the matter of Decree 125--a decree which the union's legislative committee has decided on and through which the government hopes to gain control over the (lawyers) during the (meeting).

When we review the events of the second meeting of the Hearing Committee we find the lawyer, Rifa't Ibrahim, a member of the Cairo union, spoke on behalf of moderation. He did not deal with anything other than the issues related to

lawyer's fees from fiduciary work, and representation on the union's board; issues that appeal to a majority of Cairo's lawyers. Ahmad Sayyid, a member of the Damietta union, made public his support for the proposed program--calling for the opening of a new phase (in relations) between the regime and the union on condition that the regime does not interfere in the union's affairs.

Then there were other ways for Amin Qubayl to talk; he focused on the legal case. He confirmed that what had happened was a crude assault on the legitimacy of the union. Qubayl is the al-Qalyubiya union president and he said they reject categorically the form and content of the program which the government has anonymously sponsored. There is no alternative to it but that legitimacy (be given) to the union board.

Muhibb Habib, president of the al-Mansura (union) spoke up: He denied what Ahmad Nasir had disclosed, namely his real identity as a member appointed by the central regime. Habib lodged the strongest of objections. He said: "Ahmad Nasir is unjustifiably attacking me, although I do affirm to him that I am appointed. However, I'm capable of making a riposte to him and I will not be silenced. Ahmad Nasir is inquiring into this baseless lawsuit." He said: "It's for the speaker to state his identity there in front of those in attendance!"

Ahmad Musa tried in vain to calm the situation, but he was compelled to continue the hearing. Meanwhile, Ahmad Haykal, president pro tempore, announced his resignation in opposition to what had happened. Habib reiterated that he as proud of his appointed membership. He accused the opposition of clouding the issue and for the chaos, at the same time that attempts were being made to bring Ahmad Haykal back to the meeting after a short (absence) succeeded. He was compelled to resume his seat; openly announcing that he would present a written paper. Then he tried to leave. But Ahmad Musa forced him to continue, so he sat again, enraged. Habib repudiated what he called the dictatorship of the opposition.

When it came to Muhammad 'Ayd's turn--a rightful member of the union--he assailed the viciousness of the crude attack against the (union's) legitimacy, affirming all of the measures taken beginning with Decree 125 which took away rights and ending with Decree 125, since the currently proposed program is plague-stricken by its invalidity.

He said: "The National Assembly, which should guard the separation of powers, has itself encroached on the judiciary, through the Nationalist Party and the government's having brought forth in (the Assembly) delegates who would present this program." He then indicated what he has done to oppose what had been requested by the President Husni Mubarak, whose involvement in the 1981 affair had made matters much worse--he was not then on the opposition side. The program's sponsor then warned: "The day you stoop to the gutter is near and the lawyers will oppose you, so you must fold up your papers, and come back to your senses."

In spite of the efforts to silence Hushaysh he was the center of problems. Hushaysh shouted out: "Your decree was promulgated under the influence of the Soviet Union." Ahmad Musa tried to silence Hushaysh without success so he orders him removed from the chamber, and afterwards he returned to his seat.

Muhammad Rizq, a member of the Cairo union, spoke next. He pointed to some of President al-Sadat's recollected statements about the lawyers. How is it that he said in a statement that 'Finally I've gotten rid of the journalists and the engineers. There only remains lawyers in front of me to rid myself of.' Or his statement to Dr. Rishad Rushd published in AL-AHRAM that he was a demi-god.

Again Hushaysh's voice shouted out improper utterances, so he was expelled this time, and did not return to his seat.

Ahmad al-Khawaga spoke in an effort to still the anger. He said: "The government is in charge of presenting the legislation which will organize the profession in general, just as it has done in the past. But I wonder: What is the government's position on the package in front of us? I don't know. But I assert unequivocally that the government has tried to disguise (its intentions) in the guise of the five delegates, so that by that means it could push them to introduce the (government's) program, in abstentia. But it concealed from this hall that the dispute here between us and the National Assembly (stems) from the man who proposed Decree 125 and put it up for this ruling. The government should propose it so that we may oppose it as the government's."

'Abd al-Salam Khabiz, president of the al-Buhayra (union), announced his rejection of the program categorically and in part, and he refused even to consider it. He demanded the repeal of Decree 125 which the legislative committee had passed. At this point Hushaysh resumed his efforts to enter.

At that moment Mahir Khamis became embroiled with Muhammad Rizq--the former struck the latter's face with a pen and drew blood. Ahmad Musa suspended the session for several moments, flabbergasted by the commotion. He then rushed off to the telephone to inform Dr Sufi Abu Talib, president of the National Assembly of what had happened. The security guards brought order back to the meeting hall. When they all left none of them spoke of thies incident except in jest.

This is how the lawyers conducted themselves in the second hearing session. How did they behave in the first hearing?

Those behind the scenes say that some gross differences of opinion had already occurred. These in short had caused Dr Sufi Abu Talib, president of the Assembly, to shirk the chairmanship of the hearing session in spite of his public announcements in the national newspapers on more than one occasion that he would chair that meeting. Instead he preferred to stay put in his office where he could follow events through means of his deputies who filled the (hearing) room.

At the same time the usual committee chairman, Hafiz Badawi, absented himself and was replaced by committee member, counsellor Ahmad Musa, as chairman. Already this position was too much of a surprise to everyone.

The Party and its government has already failed in their attempt to transform a parliamentary meeting into a partisan meeting by means of their inviting only lawyers who are members of the Nationalist Party (to attend the meeting) at the same when the other lawyers were forbidden to attend. And were it not for the inclusion of the "independent" counsellor, Mukhtar Nisar, who threatened to withdraw if they did not allow the others to join in (it would have been closed.) Ahmad al-Khawaga, Ahmad Nasir, and Muhammad Rizq entered the meeting hall amidst everyone's applause.

First Ahmad al-Khawaga spoke to the hearing session about the invalidity of the committee's decision to repeal the rights that the Assembly had established in 1980 in order to investigate the union's actions, and about how they had misquoted what he had said in (the union).

Al-Khawaga said: The haste to issue a new law is one of the sources of this lawsuit on the unconstitutionality of Decree 25 (125?) of 1980 which the session is slated to deliberate over on 5 March (1983)." He affirmed that these circumstances certainly demonstrate the disrespect of the people's delegates for the oaths they swore in front of the Assembly upon their election. 'I hold them to be above slipping into such an abyss.'

Al-Khawaga said: "We can only wish that democracy were supported within the union. And that it not have to strident a voice."

Mahir Muhammad 'Ali, a Nationalist Party member, revealed a new facet of the 'massacre' when he said that a large number asked that President al-Sadat leave the union's affairs to the union and its members. That was when (al-Sadat) ordered the formation of a commission to repeal the (union's) rights. When they failed to persuade him they told him: "We hold the view that you hold the decision in your hands."

Mahmud Zuyyur, president of the al-Sharqiyah union, said: "It is unacceptable that the union should be the mouthpiece of any party. The union is for the lawyers only. 'Uthman Zaza described the incident in which the plenary session withdrew its confidence in the union's board. But Zuyyur said that the event occurred completely to the contrary. The plenary session renewed its confidence in the board.

BRIEFS

CREDENTIALS OF ENVOYS RECEIVED--Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)--President Husni Mubarak received at the presidential palace in al-Qubbah this morning the credentials of eight new extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassadors accredited to the Arab Republic of Egypt. They are the ambassadors of Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Nepal, Pakistan and Zaire. His excellency received the credentials of Aruna Salam Kathir Amlniyathan as Sri Lankan ambassador in Cairo. President Mubarak also received the credentials of Sunu Madojin Dambadarja as Mongolian ambassador. He also received the credentials of Indonesian Ambassador Barakah Tirtajaya and Bangladesh Ambassador Hadayat Ahmad. President Mubarak then received the credentials of Colombian Ambassador Virgina Obregon. President Mubarak also received the credentials of Nepalese Ambassador Kabisniva Nahadur Manandahar, Pakistani Ambassador Syed Zafar ul-Islam and Zairian Ambassador Najandu Mulaba. The presentation ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Presidential Secretary General 'Izz al-Din Mukhtar, Chief Secretary Sa'id Hamzah and Chief Aide-de-camp Staff Maj Gen Mahmud al-Masri. [Spelling of Sri Lankan, Mongolian, Nepalese and Zairian ambassadors as received] [Text] [NC121448 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT 12 Mar 83]

MESSAGE FROM KING HASSAN--Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)--President Husni Mubarak today received an oral message from King Hassan II of Morocco connected with the cooperation between Egypt and Morocco at the next African summit conference. In its edition to be published tomorrow Sunday, AL-AKHBAR reports that President Mubarak received the message at his meeting with Moroccan Transport Minister Monsur Ibn 'Ali, who is currently visiting Egypt. [Text] [NC122320 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 12 Mar 83]

PRC, JAPAN VISITS--Cairo, 14 March [MENA]--Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Tawfiq 'Abduh Isma'il said today that during his recent China visit he held talks with the chairman of the Chinese Civil Aviation Authority on the possibility of using Cairo Airport in the flights of Chinese planes bound [for] Europe and North Africa. In a statement today, he also said that while being in China, where he attended a conference on tourism development, he held talks with the tourism ministers of the Philippines, Spain, Hungary and Nepal on means of fostering tourist cooperation between Egypt and each of these countries. He discussed with the transport minister of Singapore the possibility of having a direct Cairo-Singapore air (?route) he added. He also said that he held talks during his visit to Japan with the Japanese transport minister and the chairman of the Japanese Airlines. He pointed out that the possibility of opening an Egyptian tourist office in Tokyo at the request of Japanese tourism officials is under study to contribute to the consolidation of joint cooperation in the tourism field. Isma'il had paid a visit to China from 2 to 8 March after which he paid a 4-day visit to Japan. He returned here on Saturday. [Text] [NC141534 Cairo MENA in English 1449 GMT 14 Mar 83]

BRIEFS

SOLAR COLLECTORS--The National Scientific Research Authority's Center for Solar Energy Studies is installing solar collection equipment for the purpose of heating water in housing units situated in the villages of Umm al-Aranib, Humayrah and Zuwaylah and the municipality of Murzuq. This project is aimed at studying the effectiveness of this equipment and its suitability for the prevailing climatic conditions. It is well known that solar collection equipment for heating water has started to become widely used in most countries of the world, which has helped greatly in saving electrical power. The Center for Solar Energy Studies is trying, through these uses, to create a suitable system for heating water in homes through the use of solar energy technologies in order to cover part of the traditional energy consumption when these systems are introduced on a broad scale. The studies the Center for Solar Energy Studies has carried out have reaffirmed the positive nature of these applications in terms of economic and technical feasibility. This scientific project lies within the framework of the great 1 [September] revolution's interest in introducing modern scientific methods into all areas of life. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 1 Feb 83 p 6]

AL-AWSAT AGRICULTURAL PROJECT--A total of 335,400 seedlings are expected to be planted in the current agricultural season in the areas situated in the framework of the al-Awsat agricultural project. Of these, 53,500 are apple trees, grapevines and almonds in the al-Fajr al-Jadid area, 53,600 are fruit seedlings in the form of grape, almond and apple trees in the al-Bayyadah and Qasr Liby areas, 75,000 are fruit seedlings in the Abu Harawah and al-Gharib areas, 76,000 are fruit seedlings in the Takinis and Madud al-Zaytun areas, 47,000 are fruit seedlings in the Aqsantah area, and 82,000 are fruit seedlings in the al-Baniya area. The manager of the al-Awsat agricultural project stated that the area that is to be planted with these fruit seedlings come to 595 hectares. In another area, about 50,000 cherry fruit seedlings have arrived at Baninah airport from Bulgaria for planting in agricultural projects in the al-Jabal al-Akhdar area. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 2 Feb 83 p 8]

LAND RECLAMATION IN CYRENAICA--The greatest of reclamation projects is still underway in order to turn natural vegetation in al-Jabal al-Akhdar into useful plants by converting the natural forests into various fruit farms including apples, grapes, pears, peaches, almonds and cherries. This giant revolutionary activity is occurring in realization of the revolutionary program to provide a maximum amount of food and consume a minimum of it. In the course of this campaign, thousands of hectares will be reclaimed so that farms may be set up and diverse

fruit seedlings planted; in addition, about 120 retaining barriers will be built to prevent erosion in the various agricultural and pastoral projects in al-Jabal al-Akhdar and to plant 950,000 diverse seedlings — 800,000 apple seedlings, 50,000 cherry seedlings, 50,000 (anjas) seedlings and 50,000 peach seedlings. Sources in the General Popular Land Reclamation and Redevelopment Committee pointed out in a conversation with the correspondent of the AL-JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY that work is underway nowadays in two locations in al-Jabal al-Akhdar, the Abu Jarawah and the al-Rayyadah/Mirad Mas'ud areas. The sources added that work will be directed toward reclamation east, north and south of the coastal road, so that the reclamation will reach the al-Bayyadah area, proceeding in two main directions, one toward the north of the Mirad Mas'ud area, eventually reaching the seacoast, and the other toward the east, parallel to the coastal road, to the north and south, to the boundaries of the Wadi al-Kuf natural park. The reclamation process will then continue at the eastern boundaries of the Wadi al-Kuf natural park to Massah and al-Bayda' to the east. These sources also added that the purpose in this volunteer campaign is to develop the al-Jabal al-Akhdar project and plant it with fruit trees in order to develop the existing capabilities for the planting of peach trees, grapevines, and cherry and apple trees. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 4 Feb 83 p 4]

GHADAMIS HOUSING—Sources in the Popular Housing Committee in the town of Ghadamis have pointed out that work is underway on the construction of 2,195 housing units, distributed among all the sections of the municipality, and eight public squares in Ghadamis, Nalut, al-Jush, Badr, and al-Harabah. Their completion ratio stands at 55 percent so far. He pointed out that 257 units were built in 1981. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 6 Feb 83 p 6]

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT RISES—Sources in the General Popular Land Reclamation and Redevelopment Committee have pointed out that total production in the agricultural projects of the agriculture and land reclamation and redevelopment sector in the course of 9 months of the past year was as follows: wheat, 108,598 tons; barley, 3,950 tons; oats, 338 tons; vegetables, 17,158 tons; fruit, 3,292 tons; sheep, 1,277 head; cattle, 5,670 head; poultry, 1,927,162 fowl; chicks, 11,038,879 units; turkeys, 25,308 units. The sources also pointed out that 35,963,582 liters of milk, 141,933,108 eggs and 58,106 kilograms of honey were produced in the same period. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 8 Feb 83 p 8]

INCREASE IN CEMENT OUTPUT—Sources in the National Cement and Building Materials Company in al-Khums have pointed out that in 1982 large amounts of packaged and flowing cement were produced by the al-Murqib and Libdah plants belonging to the company, since that year production of packaged cement came to about 443,956,350 tons and of flowing cement about 249,639,330 tons in the two plants. Total production in the two plants came to about 692,545,680 tons a year, for a monthly production rate in the two plants of about 57,795,472 tons of both types. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 10 Feb 83 p 2]

TUBRUQ SEWAGE PURIFICATION—Sources in the Popular Utilities Committee in the municipality of Tubruq have pointed out that work is underway on the construction of a sewage purification project in the municipality of Tubruq to be used in irrigation in agricultural projects. This project will consist of a main pumping station, a processing station and sand filters for water purification, in addition

to a pipeline for pumping purified water to the irrigation area and collecting it in a large reservoir for subsequent release for irrigation. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 11 Feb 83 p 2]

TARHUNAH VOLUNTEER PROJECTS—The Popular Secretariat in the Red Crescent Society, Tarhunah branch, has organized a work program for young people during the midyear academic break in the context of self reliance in the performance of general service activities. In the course of this program, which lasted for a week and included various areas in the municipality of Tarhunah, a number of lectures were given on traffic, rescue and civil defense rules and training in first aid, and volunteer work was done to clean out the Tarhunah hospital and the al-Sharsharah well. These volunteer campaigns, which the students in the jamahiriya are carrying out in response to our brother the commander of the revolution's incitement of the masses on the need for self-reliance in carrying out service activities, are taking place as part of a comprehensive mobilization. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 11 Feb 83 p 2]

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UNIVERSITY DISTURBANCES CRITICIZED

PM021703 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 25 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] The universities are regularly, and you could say systematically, subject to agitation, especially at examination time when they most need calm and tranquillity.

It is a revealing coincidence that it is always when Morocco is in an advantageous position in the political, diplomatic or military sphere that this agitation arises.

This is the case at present; at a time when the mercenaries' defeat in the field is obvious and when Morocco's international position has been strengthened by the success of the Fes summit and Morocco's diplomatic action to promote the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian problem in particular.

It is this moment that the troublemakers have chosen to launch actions which are nothing less than sabotage operations within the universities because they are sensitive ground. This action is particularly reprehensible since there is no justification for it, especially since National Education Minister Azeddine Laraki implemented a reform plan in keeping with the students' aspirations, especially as regards the holding of examinations. In close liaison with the students themselves and with the teachers, it was decided to implement the system of doing some examinations in mid-session. That is a rational and modern reform already implemented in the countries in which education is most efficient, Britain and America in particular. It makes it possible to spread out examinations over a longer period and avoid cramming and an excessive work load. This system makes the examination a real test of knowledge and no longer a recitation competition. Thus it enables the students to approach the examinations in better mental, physical and intellectual conditions.

It was during the period devoted to these examinations and hence at a crucial time for the people concerned that a small group whose only objective is agitation, subversion and destruction launched a strike without any reason and, since it represents nothing, follows no party or trade union and since everybody disowns it, it is resorting to intimidation and violence.

Faced with this situation, faced with these malevolent actions which are doing great damage to all the students, the time has come not only to condemn these machinations but to act. Indeed it is impossible to go on tolerating the harmful action of antinational elements and thus sacrifice our students' future and the efforts of the whole country to promote education. Indeed the state devotes 3 billion centimes per day to national education and the sabotage action undertaken does tremendous damage to the nation, the citizens and more especially to the students.

Well, enough is enough. It is necessary to immediately launch a cleansing and curative operation but also a preventive operation to avoid the repetition of such situations. For it is no longer a question of demands (what demands?) but purely and simply of subversion. It is necessary to put an end to the permanent agitation maintained within the university which must be a center of work and education and not a hotbed of agitation.

But at the same time the national organizations which represent 99.9 percent of the students and the valid interlocutors must be helped to shoulder their responsibilities by maintaining a constant dialogue and close cooperation with them all, especially as regards organizing and defending the universities.

It is necessary to take action at all levels to keep the students and the public informed, using all the means available and stressing the importance of the efforts and sacrifices made to educate tomorrow's cadres.

Finally during the examination period the students' safety must be guaranteed inside and outside the universities. Like all citizens they must be protected and their freedom must be respected.

The essential thing is to prevent harm being done to the students and citizens. Thus energetic action is vital because we are not witnessing specifically university action we are not facing action launched to support just and legitimate demands but real subversion. There are sound national university organizations; they have condemned these machinations which are damaging to everybody's interests and to the nation's interests.

It is, therefore, necessary to carry out the vital purging action without delay....

CC: 2/20/112

BRIEFS

SUDAN-ROMANIA RELATIONS--Khartoum, 1 Mar (SUNA)--Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the republic and of the SSU, received this morning Nicolae Constantin, member of the Political Executive Committee of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and head of the Romanian delegation to the Fourth SSU National Congress. In a statement following the meeting, head of the Romanian delegation said that he conveyed to President Numayri an oral message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. He pointed out that he conveyed a similar message to the SSU. In an interview with SUNA Constantin said that Sudanese-Romanian relations are firm and old that there is a close relationship between the presidents of the two countries who have met several times in Khartoum and Bucharest, helped in making these relations strong. He added that through these meetings, a strong base of cooperation between the two countries has been founded. This base, he said, was strengthened by the establishment of two joint committees which conclude and carry out all agreements between the two countries. Constantin added that trade exchange between Sudan and Romania has tripled within the last 10 years. He said that through this exchange Romania was able to establish firm cooperation with Sudan in the fields of industry, agriculture production and education. A number of Sudanese youth study in Romania. Constantin stressed that Romania is interested in this cooperation. [Excerpts] [JN011925 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Mar 83]

ARAB LOAN--Abu Dhabi, 2 Mar (WAM)--Sudan obtained a \$15.9 million loan today from the Arab Monetary Fund. The interest rate for this 3-year loan ranges from 5.2 percent in the first year to 5.8 percent in the second year. The purpose of the loan is to help Sudan in its balance of payments for the fiscal year 1981-1982. This is the second loan that Sudan has received from the fund. [GF021414 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Mar 83]

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REVIEWED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 7, 14 Feb 83 pp 8-12

[Article: "Tunisia Hopes Sixth Five-Year Plan Brings Industrial Breakthrough"]

[Text]

A slump in oil prices will certainly hurt Tunisia's development plans, as Economy Minister Abdel Aziz Lasram admits in an exclusive interview with this newsletter (see page 10). But the blow is most unlikely to be a fatal one. In the first place, oil is only one of Tunisia's resources, albeit an important one, and when Tunisia's planners drew up their country's sixth five-year plan covering the years 1982-86, they based their calculations on a forecast that the value of Tunisia's oil exports would actually fall by 1 per cent a year at constant prices. This is in sharp contrast to the annual increase of 8 per cent at constant prices during the life of the previous plan. So barring an improbable catastrophic collapse of oil prices, Tunisia should be able to weather this downward adjustment in its revenues.

At the beginning of its third decade of development planning, Tunisia clearly brings to the task a wealth of experience that few other Arab governments can hope to match. At the same time, of course, Tunisia faces formidable challenges to its economic development, the most notable of which is the need to create jobs for a population that increased by 2.7 per cent a year during the previous decade and which is still increasing at a slightly slower pace despite a vigorous campaign to promote family planning. Tunisia's planners expect the demographic increase to be 2.5 per cent a year between now and 1986 and 2.3 per cent during the life of the seventh five-year plan. This would give Tunisia a population of 7.4 million in 1986 and 8.3 million in 1991.

Translated into jobs, the rising population means that an additional 664,000 workers must be found employment during this coming decade, with 324,000 of these jobs being needed during the current planning period. This is 44,000 more than for the fifth five-year plan (1976-81) and almost double the 165,000 additional workers who required jobs during the life of the fourth five-year plan.

The second big challenge is that Tunisia is counting on a breakthrough into more advanced industries than are to be found there at present. As Mr Lasram explains in his interview, Tunisia hopes some of the new technologies this will require can be found by bringing into partnership Tunisia's resources in manpower and raw materials, capital from Arab oil exporting countries which already have close economic links with Tunisia, and knowhow from industrial countries. Alongside its growing chemical manufacturing industry, Tunisia hopes to develop factories to produce mechanical and electrical equipment and take its first steps into more sophisticated manufacturing.

Viewed from the outside, Tunisia's ambitions merit at least a second look. This is because the planners have approached the problems standing in the way of economic growth in a pragmatic fashion and because they believe they can finance a planned expenditure of TD 8.2 billion (about \$14 billion) at current prices largely from the country's own resources. Of this sum, the plan envisages raising TD 6.45 billion (about \$10.7 billion) from a combination of government investment and private sector savings. These sources of finance accounted for 60 per cent of the investments covered by development planning during the first decade and 78 per cent during the second decade so local financing of investment is nothing new in Tunisia. The planners expect 42 per cent of the funds to be raised locally for development to come from the government, 32 per cent from enterprises and 26 per cent from individual savers.

Another reason for taking a second look is that Tunisia has leaned heavily over the past 20 years towards investments that yielded direct production, with 50 per cent of its investments falling into this category during the first decade and 60 per cent during the second 10-year period. For the current plan, forecast ratio is just over 62 per cent, with investments in labour-intensive projects accounting for 28 per cent of total investment. This represents an increase of 6.8 per cent over the 21.2 per cent devoted to labour-intensive projects during the fifth five-year plan.

This drive towards a labour-intensive economy can also be seen in Tunisia's attempts to reduce the ratio of capital to output from 4.5 to 4.1 during the sixth five-year plan and to cut the cost of creating each new job from TD 21,000 during the fifth plan to TD 18,000 (at 1980 prices). The ratio of capital to output was 6 during the first 10 years of planning and averaged 4 during the second decade.

A third reason is that while Tunisia's planners have budgeted to invest much more money during the present planning period than during the previous plan, the amount to be invested is actually a smaller percentage of the country's Gross Domestic Product than it was during the fifth plan. Whereas investments during the fifth plan

were TD 4.539 billion at current prices (TD 4.75 billion in 1980 Dinars), the TD 8.2 billion of the present plan represents TD 5.48 billion in 1980 Dinars; investments during the fifth plan represented 29.8 per cent of GDP, while the sixth plan's investments amount to 25.6 per cent of projected GDP, slightly above the 25.2 per cent of GDP that was invested during the fourth plan.

The reason for this fall is that Tunisia is clearly determined to keep the cost of servicing its external debt covered within manageable bounds. The total external debt covered by the plan is scheduled to rise from TD 1.475 billion at the end of the fifth plan to TD 3.03 billion at the end of 1986, but the rise in the rate of foreign indebtedness as a percentage of Gross National Product should be marginal, from 36 per cent to 36.2 per cent. At the same time, the plan envisages that servicing this debt will require 16.7 per cent of earnings from abroad net of energy imports, an increase of only 0.7 per cent over the 16 per cent required to service Tunisia's debts during the fifth plan.

When it comes to allocation of priorities, Tunisia's planners have also had to keep in mind the need to provide infrastructure for regions where development is still very limited. This is of special importance insofar as the current plan is concerned because agriculture is one of the three sectors chosen to receive a considerable boost to investment. Agriculture is to get TD 1.55 billion in investments, according to the sixth plan, compared to TD 584 million during the previous plan. Farming, including irrigation and development of water resources as well as the breeding of livestock and fishing, are thus to receive 18.9 per cent of total investment, roughly half as much again as the 12.9 per cent allocation during the fifth plan. The reasons for giving priority to these sectors are, of course, a desire to prevent a drift of population to the towns and the fact that the cost of creating new jobs in these occupations is relatively low.

Although industry is to receive slightly more than agriculture for investment in its development, the increase in the percentage of total investment that will go to industry is very much smaller. Industry has been allotted TD 1.6 billion by the sixth plan compared to TD 816 during the fifth plan, but current investment represents 19 per cent of the total whereas it was 18 per cent during the previous five years. Emphasis, as was noted above, has been given to mechanical and electrical industries, which are to receive 4.7 per cent of total investment, roughly double what they obtained during the fifth plan (2.4 per cent). Textiles, shoe manufacturing and leather are to receive 2 per cent of total investment compared to 1.6 per cent during the fifth plan; paper, wood, plastics and other industries are to receive almost twice the percentage of total investment (1.8 per cent compared to 1 per cent). These industries have been chosen as the beneficiaries of increased investment

because they lend themselves to the creation of small and medium-sized industrial units and thus help to create employment, to promote regional development and to help Tunisia's balance of payments.

Tourism is also a priority sector

Tourism is the third sector which is being given priority by the plan and its allocation has more than doubled when seen as a percentage of total investment (from 2.6 per cent during the fifth plan to 5.5 per cent) and by almost fourfold in actual funds, from TD 117 million to TD 450 million. The objective is to undertake construction of rooms for 40,000 beds for tourists during the planning period, with 30,000 of these beds ready for use by the end of 1986. Rooms for only 13,000 beds were built during the fifth plan and the aim is to raise the total number of beds available for tourists from 76,000 in 1981 to about 106,000 at the end of 1986.

In terms of jobs created, agriculture, industry and tourism are supposed to serve as the economic locomotives, with industry taking the biggest share of the burden of providing the 300,000 new jobs that the planners believe can be created if at the same time the GDP is raised by an average of 6 per cent a year in real terms and *per capita* income is increased by an average of 3.1 per cent a year, also in real terms.

Agriculture is projected to provide 30,000 additional jobs during the life of the sixth plan and value added in the sector is seen as rising by an average of 4.4 per cent a year at constant prices. Value added actually fell by 2 per cent during the fifth plan and the current plan aims to stabilise Tunisia's deficit from imports of food at TD 85 million a year, roughly what it was during the fifth plan.

The planners want to see 109,000 new jobs in industry compared to 87,000 during the fifth plan. Value added is also projected to rise to an average of 10.5 per cent a year at constant prices against 9.7 per cent during the sixth plan, with mechanical and electrical manufacturing industries acting as the bellwethers and producing an increase in value added of 15.2 per cent a year.

Tourism is seen as providing 12,000 new jobs compared to 5,000 during the fifth plan but the projected increase in value added averaging 5.5 per cent a year is about the same as that of the fifth plan.

The planners take as their point of departure the belief that none of the above objectives is realistic if they fail to maintain the fundamental bases for equilibrium in the Tunisian economy. What they aim for is an enhanced version of Tunisia's finances at the end of the planning period that is essentially the same as the shape of Tunisian finances at the beginning of the plan. In their view, this means that additional consumption, imports and exports

must not be allowed to distort significantly a picture in which the budget deficit was roughly 5 per cent of GDP, the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments was 7 per cent of GNP, external debt stood at 36 per cent of GDP and debt servicing represented 6 per cent of GNP or 16 per cent of current receipts net of energy imports.

Achieving this equilibrium will, to be sure, depend to a large degree upon increasing exports to world markets. Tunisia has not done too badly in the past as an exporter and thus merits the benefit of the doubt insofar as the plan's weakest link is concerned. But achieving the plan's export goals could be difficult. Overall, they are projected to rise by 6.6 per cent at constant prices and by 12.4 per cent at current prices.

Exports of oil, as has been stated above, are expected to fall, but plans for foreign sales of refined products envisage an increase of 9 per cent at constant prices compared to 8 per cent during the fifth plan. Agricultural exports and exports of processed agricultural produce have been set a target of an increase of 8.5 per cent at constant prices; the rise in these exports was only 0.2 per cent during the fifth plan.

Exports of phosphates and their derivatives have likewise been set an ambitious goal: a 12 per cent increase at constant prices compared to a 7.4 per cent rise during the fifth plan. Foreign sales from Tunisia's new mechanical and electrical manufacturing plants have likewise been set a target of 19 per cent at constant prices. But exports of textiles, leather goods and shoes are targeted to increase by 10 per cent at constant prices compared to the 25 per cent increase during the fifth plan, recognition of resistance to imports of such goods in Tunisia's markets in industrialised countries, especially in Europe.

Tourism, meanwhile, is projected to increase its earnings by 5.5 per cent at constant prices to rise from TD 300 million in 1981, when receipts from tourism represented 15.5 per cent of the country's export revenues, to almost TD 595 million in 1986. Tourism, if everything goes according to plan, will then bring in the equivalent of 17.6 per cent of Tunisia's export earnings.

TUNISIA'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ECONOMY MINISTER

Tunisia is counting on bringing together industrial partners from Europe and other developed countries and capital from the Gulf Arab oil exporting countries in a bid to move towards a more sophisticated industrial base. This was the message that Tunisia's Economy Minister Abdel Aziz Lasram brought to Paris recently to a meeting of French industrialists and financiers organised by the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce. Mr Lasram later explained Tunisia's industrial strategy in an exclusive interview with *An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO's* Randa Takieddine. Mr Lasram is also responsible for Tunisia's

development as an oil producer and he also dealt with some aspects of this sector of the Tunisian economy. The interview follows:

Q: What do you expect to come from this Franco-Tunisian Day? In particular, what are you telling French industrialists who are present today?

A: Our approach is first of all to try to make them aware of the problems we face in carrying out development. This is because we think that Tunisia represents an interesting case and we think that the way in which we are tackling these problems could constitute a valid basis for harmonising relations between developed and developing countries. I expect therefore a positive response to the proposal that I am making, which is a simple one. It consists of a form of sharing production, taking into account the interests of both sides. It goes beyond short term solutions which could be found and which would mean adopting a protectionist policy which could be viable in the short term but would have a recessive effect in the long term and would not be a factor for progress.

It is, in essence, to provide multiple dimensions for cooperation, to enlarge it to embrace other Arab countries or countries at a level of industrialisation equivalent to that of Tunisia.

Q: Tunisia has encountered problems with the EEC over protectionism and the difficulties this has caused for exports of textiles and farm products. Can you speak about how these problems are evolving?

A: There has certainly been an evolution insofar as textiles are concerned. There have been effects (of European protectionism on Tunisia's textile industry), but to tell you the truth, the Tunisian economy is characterised by its diversification and nothing can in the end break it. Our economy is diversified, based as it is on phosphates, chemicals, petroleum, tourism, agriculture and exports of certain farm produce such as olive oil to the European Economic Community. The economy is also based on industrial production, which includes textiles.

It is clear that in the euphonia of the beginnings of our relations with the EEC — at the time when it was said that any industrial goods manufactured in our countries would benefit from free entry into the Community — industrialists and not the government chose the most simple sector, which is textiles. Subsequently, we applied the brakes to the development of that section of the textile industry designed specifically for export and we have tried to base it upon our domestic market and to give it a greater value added component. So now we have found a *modus vivendi* with the Community. It is perhaps not ideal: it consists of a system of self-limitation of exports to the EEC within the framework of quotas for various categories of products. The volume of exports from Tunisia to the EEC of textiles (cloth, ready-to-wear clothes and millinery) is \$300 million a year. But we also

import large quantities of textiles from the EEC and the balance of payments for textiles with the EEC is slightly in our favour.

Q: What is Tunisia's trade deficit with France?

A: Our trading deficit with France represents half of our overall trading deficit of TD 650 million or so (about \$1.3 billion). The half of our deficit which comes from trading with France is not negligible if one takes into account the size of Tunisia. France is our largest trading partner. The second is Italy and West Germany is in third place.

Q: In your address to French financiers and industrialists you spoke of the role that Tunisia could play between France and the Arab oil producing countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE). Could you explain how you envisage this role?

A: It is not the role of an intermediary. Let me explain: we have privileged relations with certain Arab countries, notably with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE. These privileged relations make themselves apparent in the form of a contribution by these countries to Tunisia's development. Our idea, which I put forward today, is to seek a formula for North-South cooperation based upon a sharing of tasks and a transfer of technology.

Now the countries in question have accepted this formula by providing considerable amounts of capital for development banks. They have also participated by naming directors for the boards of these banks persons whose abilities are both valuable and recognised. There has also been bilateral cooperation with us in creating quite considerable enterprises in the chemical sector and they have provided capital as shareholders.

What we want to do is give this cooperation with these countries an added dimension by linking them with a third, fourth or even fifth partner to bring in more advanced technologies than the ones which we already have together. To mention only the Kuwaits, we already possess significant technological knowhow in the chemical industry. We cooperate with very important Kuwaiti enterprises and our exchanges of technology are balanced: they brought to us the technology for manufacturing ammonia and the technology for petrochemicals; we provided technology for producing phosphorus and phosphates; we have an entire series of factories already producing phosphoric acid at Gabès. The Petrochemical Company of Kuwait is our partner in these projects. We import ammonia from Kuwait and we make DAP, MAP, fluor, tripolysulphide of soda and a series of other products.

We are building together a group of factories at Gafsa as part of our overall development plan. We are also working together to develop tourism and, thanks to the development banks, we are about to tackle a third sector. This is the one that interests us the most: mechanical engineering, electro-mechanical products and advanc-

ed industries. We are bringing in European partners for these industries together with the Kuwaitis, Saudis and other Arab states.

We have a Tunisian-Kuwaiti development bank, a Tunisian-Saudi Arabian bank, a Tunisian-UAE bank, a Tunisian-Algerian bank and a Tunisian-Qatari-French bank. Their capital is about \$200 million for each of them, with the exception of the Tunisian-Algerian bank, which has a capital of \$20 million and in which 50 per cent of the shares are held by each partner.

Q: About two years ago you organised a meeting in Tunisia for Arab investors. Are you satisfied with the level of Arab investment? And have you made changes in legislation concerning investment? Some investors spoke at the time of difficulties concerning legislation.

A: Legislation is a complicated business and sometimes it must be. Tunisia is not a country that is open to all winds. It is a country in which investment is channelled: we make sectoral choices, but within the scope of these choices there is total freedom of action. But there is no question of opening up Tunisia to all comers.

The establishment of joint development banks is an application of this intention because in this way we avoid uncontrolled investment. We achieve channelled investment with willing partners. They are willing because they decide, project by project, whether they are of interest to them.

Q: Turning to Tunisia's revenues from petroleum. What is your annual production now and what did these revenues represent for Tunisia in 1982?

A: We produce 5.6 million tonnes of petroleum a year. It is difficult to talk about revenues because these change as a result of changes in the price of a barrel of oil. Last year, direct revenues (that is to say, budgetary revenues) were about TD 300 million (around \$600 million). But figures for foreign trade in oil are meaningless because we import and we export oil and we carry out processing and exchanges of oil.

Q: The price of oil is falling at present on international markets and this will harm certain developing countries which are seeking to encourage a search for oil on their territory. I am thinking in particular of Tunisia. How will this lower price for oil affect you?

A: Oil is important for Tunisia but happily it is less important for us than it is in other countries. This is because Tunisia has other resources and other possible courses of action. The real problem for us is our fear that we will see a reduction in investment in exploration.

What is important for us is to maintain investment in the exploration which is being undertaken by oil companies in our country. The geology of our country is complex and our oilfields are mainly of moderate size

and this means that heavy investment is required as well as very advanced technology. This is because most of the exploration wells in our country are between 5,000 and 6,000 metres in depth.

What we are pinning our hopes on is the fact that we are close to consumers and that investment will continue because oil found in our country is more profitable because of the shorter distance to consumer markets. Stability in Tunisia also provides quite favourable conditions for investment and so does our domestic market for production from these investments. The Tunisian economy has evolved to a point at which we are able to use significant quantities of the gas that is being discovered in Tunisia.

We are, of course, feeling the effects of the crisis for oil. The rise in oil prices between 1975 and 1980 enabled Tunisia to post some exceptionally good performances because prices were tripling or doubling for the oil that was available. The figures made Tunisia look like a particularly good performer.

It is evident that this factor (of higher prices) has now disappeared and that our performance will appear less important. But this is not altogether true because what is important is the price of oil as it affects our trade balance, the price of oil and its effect on our Gross Domestic Product and the price of oil as it affects our foreign exchange reserves. At present, however, we are moving to free ourselves more and more from this problem because we have followed a policy for domestic prices for oil that is bringing us closer to world prices.

Q: Turning to the question of the delimitation of territorial waters between Tunisia and Libya. The World Court of The Hague has made its judgement but experts will have to meet soon on the question. Why is this happening?

A: It's over. The Court has made its judgement. The experts must meet to settle some details. They have not done so yet but I hope they will soon.

Q: It has been said that the judgement gives Libya an advantage over Tunisia. What do you think about it?

A: Our area has been delimited. That is what the Court decided. To be sure, we would have wished to have a larger area, but one should not speak of detriment or advantage. I do not think that this is a useful approach to say that they (the Libyans) obtained the maximum. They obtained what is perhaps the maximum in the light of what we hoped to receive, but that is the way it goes. Our government has confidence in the judgement of the World Court at The Hague.

Q: Tunisia's entry into the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) took place under somewhat tumultuous conditions (Tunisia's membership was opposed by Libya, effectively halting the organisation's proceedings for several months in 1982). As the

minister who represents Tunisia inside O.A.P.E.C., can you tell me what membership of the organisation means for Tunisia?

A: It represents first of all and above all a confirmation of our will to cooperate with other countries of the Arab world and it is the natural complement to what I was saying to you earlier about development banks and their role in the reformulation of our external economic policy. It is clear that it was necessary for us to join in the concert of Arab nations in a sector where all of them said they wanted us to take part regardless of the problems that surfaced or what was said at the time of our entry into O.A.P.E.C.

Q: What will Tunisia receive as transit dues when the trans-Mediterranean gas pipeline from Algeria to Italy is working?

A: We will receive a very small amount which will be paid to us in the form of gas. We will get from 5 to 6 per cent of the gas going through the pipeline as transit dues.

RAMADAN COMMENTS ON WAR, NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

LD081125 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0934 GMT 8 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Mar (KUNA)--In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, published here today, Taha Yasin Ramadan first deputy Iraq prime minister and member of the revolution command council, has stated that Iran is unlikely to heed the nonaligned summit conference's call for a cease-fire and for an end of the Irq-Iran war "despite the huge losses in men and equipment that Tehran has suffered in recent battles." He added that Iraq is not optimistic about reaching a solution to the 30-month old war "because the present form of the top leadership in Iran believes that its existence in office depends on the continuation of this war."

He said that his country pins no hopes to the seventh nonaligned summit conference currently meeting in New Delhi with regard to the ending of the war with Iran. "We pin our hopes," he said, "solely on our capabilities, resources and readiness to fight under all circumstances." He affirmed, however, that Baghdad "will support any effective move toward peace."

On the question of mediation between Iraq and Iran for ending the war between these two Muslim countries, Ramadan said that Algeria has not abandoned its mediation, which he said "has achieved nothing so far." But, he added, Iraq "reaffirms its intention to cooperate with any Algerian or non-Algerian side undertaking mediation provided that such a mediation holds hopes for the realization of the aspired results."

Speaking of the latest developments in the fighting, Ramadan said that Iran's losses have been great during the battles east of Basra and in Maysan, Mandali and (I-Shib), so much so that these losses exceed all its losses "during the past 2 years."

The Iraqi army formations and fighters along the battlefield with Iran are today much larger in numbers than at the start of the war and this, he said, is "due to the experience gained during the past 3 [as received] years of war."

Concerning the attitude of the two superpowers toward the Iraq-Iran conflict, Ramadan said that "the Soviet attitude has now improved compared to the first year of the war." He pointed out that the Iraqi leadership [word indistinct]

with the Soviet leadership over its role in regard to ending the war. He said that "the Soviet Union has absorbed our line of thinking. But we cannot predict that it will do in this respect."

He said that during his recent visit to Moscow, he told the Soviet leadership that "if the United States and the USSR were serious in their desire to see an end to the war, they would have taken steps to end the war instead of just issuing rhetoric calls for peace."

Ramadan pointed out that his visit took place within the framework of "continued consultations and meetings on the level of leadership in both countries," and that the talks he has had with Soviet officials centered on bilateral cooperation, the Iraq-Iran war and the Soviet attitude toward it.

Ramadan disclosed that the dropping of oil prices has had an adverse effect on Iraq. He added that "it is only natural for the drop in oil prices to affect Iraq, now more than any other country because there are some countries who can increase their production to compensate for the loss resulting from the drop in oil prices. But Iraq has a limited exporting capacity because of the aggressive war Iran is waging against us."

Ramadan called on the Arab oil producing and exporting countries to take serious steps toward the creation of a united stand to save OPEC, of which they are members, from its current crisis. He said that "attempts are being made by certain subversive quarters to destroy the OPEC, which is of prime importance to the oil producing and oil consuming countries alike."

With regard to the Arab efforts being exerted to persuade Syria to permit the passage of Iraqi oil across its territory, Ramadan said that "so far, the oil pipeline is still closed." But, he said, Iraq has signed an agreement with Turkey for the laying of an Iraqi oil pipeline across Turkish territory and for the formation of technical committees to consider the laying of a gas pipeline across Turkey in addition to bringing electricity to Turkey via a high tension network.

He said that all these agreements were signed during his recent visit to Turkey, when he also discussed current and future relations between the two countries.

BA'TH OFFICIAL ADDRESSES ITALIAN CP CONGRESS

IN031912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Rome, 3 Mar (INA)--A member of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has affirmed that Iraq will continue its efforts to achieve a just and honorable settlement for its dispute with Iran.

Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab, who heads the party delegation to the 13th general congress of the Italian Communist Party, affirmed Iraq's eagerness to end this dispute in accordance with the principles of the nonaligned movement, and international law and through respect of peoples' freedom and their right to choice.

He held Iran responsible for continuing its aggression against Iraq which began 30 months ago. He said that though Iraq has responded to initiatives by the United Nations, the Islamic conference and the nonaligned movement, the Tehran rulers continue to reject all these initiatives and insist on their aggression.

In a speech before the congress which is continuing its meetings that began in Milan yesterday, Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab explained that as a sign of good will, Iraq observed a unilateral cease-fire and withdrew its forces from the Iranian territory which it was forced to enter to defend its people and sovereignty. He said however, the rulers of Tehran who are backed by imperialism and Zionism rejected this initiative. He touched on the Palestinian issue in his speech saying that it represented the central core of the struggle of the party which defined its position on political movements and world countries in light of their positions on this issue.

Taking part in this congress, whose meetings will continue until 6 March, are delegations of more than 120 parties and political movements.

IRAQ

TARIQ 'AZIZ ON NONALIGNED SUMMIT RESULTS

UN131347 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has described the seventh nonaligned summit, which concluded its meetings in New Delhi yesterday, as being a strong demonstration of support for the cause of peace.

In a statement in INA today, Tariq 'Aziz said that the overwhelming majority of the delegations which had participated in the summit called for putting an immediate end to the war, this was contained in the appeal made by Indira Gandhi, who chaired the summit.

Tariq 'Aziz added that Iraq has won the support and respect of the majority of the countries which participated in the summit who had viewed Iraq's proposal, contained in the speech of Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, head of the Iraqi delegation to the nonaligned summit, on the formation of an arbitration committee to define the responsibility of the party which had started the aggression and the war as well as the responsibility of the party which was prolonging it, as being proof of Iraq's strong stand and abidance by the principles of the nonaligned movement and international law.

On the issue of Iraq's hosting the eighth nonaligned summit, Tariq 'Aziz said that the vote by 53 countries in favor of Iraq's hosting the eighth summit is irrefutable proof of the support and respect that Iraq enjoys among the ranks of the nonaligned movement.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the very small minority which had opposed Iraq's hosting the forthcoming nonaligned summit was completely isolated at the summit. The summit had also isolated the Iranian regime and its allies. The Syrian and Libyan regimes. He added that pressure was exerted on the Libyan regime to have it accept the peace initiatives which compelled the head of the Libyan delegation to return to Tehran to escape the pressures to the summit.

On the summit and resolutions and recommendations that would strengthen the Arab League's role in the international arena and that it had adopted several resolutions in the interest of the Palestinian cause. The summit also strongly condemned the Zionist aggression against the Iraqi nuclear reactor and approved the proposals submitted by the Iraqi delegation on this issue.

Replying to a question by INA on the significance of postponing a final decision regarding the venue of the eighth conference, the foreign minister said: Actually, the conference took a clear decision welcoming Iraq's invitation to host the eighth summit conference. This is not our own interpretation but the interpretation of the conferees who took this decision. The nonaligned movement's ministerial meeting in 1985 will adopt a final decision in this regard, for officially, there is no other invitation to host the conference.

He added that the conferees turned down clearly invitations by the Syrian and Libyan regimes to host the conference. Their invitations were supported by only one voice in the conference. The members of the treasonous alliance of Tehran, Damascus and Tripoli who voted against Iraq's invitation to host the conference failed to adopt a unified stand on the invitations by the Syrian and Libyan regimes. Their stands in the political committee were confused and shaky.

CSO: 4400/246

IRAQ

IRANIAN ANTINONALIGNED MOVEMENT CAMPAIGN SCORED

IN041727 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)--The Iraqi culture and information minister, who is chairman of the governmental coordination council of the nonaligned states' information ministers, has strongly condemned the Iranian leaders' campaign against the nonaligned movement and its principles. He described this campaign as an abortive attempt to sabotage the movement and obstruct its work.

In two speeches today, Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi unleashed a fierce attack on the nonaligned movement and its leaders. They accused all the movement's member states, except Iran, of being biased. They added that Iran will work to rectify the movement's objectives.

Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayvif Jasim told INA today that the two Iranian officials' speeches are considered a blatant intervention in the affairs of a movement which played an important role in international relations and events and prominently contributed to the alleviation of world tension.

He added that the Iranian regime, which joined the movement only a short time ago, should revoke its suspect alliances with the imperialist and Zionist forces and abandon its continuous attempts to interfere in the neighboring countries' internal affairs. It should also put an end to the war with Iraq and fulfill the basic demands of the nonaligned states if it really wants to uphold the principles for which the movement is working.

He urged the movement's member states to read the two Iranian leaders' speeches when distributed in order to discover the falsehoods and deliberate distortion of truths contained in them with the aim of harming the movement's unity and continuing its principles.

BRIEFS

SADDAM VISITS MILITARY CAMP--Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)--President Saddam Husayn this morning inspected the training field of one of the military brigades. The president listened to a detailed explanation made by the brigade commander about the training standard of the fighters, their familiarization with combat techniques and their good performance of drills. Saddam Husayn stressed to the fighters the importance of accepting any criticism which explains their weak points and faults in training and to benefit from them in their next practice. He added: When your comrades draw your attention to your faults, and you convert them into a course of action in a subsequent exercise, you will reduce casualties in the war and achieve victory. You will also be proud and the triumphant banner of Iraq will remain high. [Text] [JN081848 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 8 Mar 83]

APPEAL TO POPULAR ARMY--Baghdad--The Democratic National Patriotic Front in Iraq has appealed to all officers, soldiers and men of the popular army to immediately join the front's forces to thwart the murderous acts of the fascist killers and criminals and topple the tyrannical regime in Iraq. In a statement on the situation in Iraq, the front pointed out that tyrant Saddam Husayn's intelligence had resorted to a new method of persecution and pursuit. It arrests all those opposing the policy of criminal Saddam, executes them and then informs their families that the front's forces were behind the killing. The front explained that this kind of action had been carried out in a number of governorates, particularly in the Sinjar District. [Text] [JN080813 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Mar 83]

SYRIAN ESPIONAGE GROUP TRIED, CONVICTED IN ISRAEL

TA231643 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1605 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Nazareth, 23 Feb (ITIM)--A Syrian espionage network which was active on the Golan Heights and composed of four Druze, inhabitants of Majdal Shams, who supplied information to Syrian intelligence for about 9 months, was captured by the Israeli security services and tried at the Nazareth District Court.

The ITIM correspondent reports that the discovery of the network was permitted for publication on Tuesday after the court convicted them and permitted the release of some of the charge sheets submitted against them.

The four are Fa'iz Sa'id Mahmud (29), Wahid Ahmad Sayyid (18), Nidal 'Afif Mahmud (20) and his father, 'Afif Qasim Mahmud.

According to the prosecution, Fa'iz Mahmud left seven times for Syria during March and December of 1982. There he met with Syrian army intelligence officers and gave them detailed information about the concentration of IDF units on the Golan Heights and the types of arms possessed by the IDF forces on the Golan Heights. He also handed them names of collaborators with the Israeli authorities, including names of Druze who accepted Israeli identification cards in the course of the wide-scale strike staged on the Golan Heights last year.

The other convicts were also charged with leaving for Syria on a number of occasions and transmitting similar information to Syrian intelligence personnel.

'Afif Mahmud, Nidal's father, left only once for Syria, and contrary to the others was convicted only of contacts with a foreign agent and an illegal exit from and reentry into Israel.

The ITIM correspondent notes that the four were captured 3 months ago in the wake of an investigation by the security services, and put on trial. They confessed to having done what they were charged with and were convicted. Their punishment will be determined next week.

The justices hearing the case were the president of the district court, Yosef Zakai, and justices Mikha Lindenstrauss and Hanokh Ari'el.

END 140 227

ISRAEL

WEST BANK CIVIL ADMINISTRATOR ON PNC MEETING

TA260943 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 26 Feb 83

["Weekly Newsreel" interview with Brig Gen Shlomo Ilia, head of the civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria, by correspondent in Judaea and Samaria Arye Elis; date and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Shlomo Ilia, the Palestine National Council [PNC] has just ended its deliberations in Algiers. In your opinion, how will its resolutions affect the inhabitants of the territories?

[Answer] The pro-Jordanian camp, mainly represented by familiar outstanding leaders such as Hikmat al-Masri, Ilyas Frayj and Rashad al-Shawwa, expected that the PNC would conclude by adopting a resolution enabling the Jordanian king, in a clear manner and not through ambivalent vague resolutions, to approach negotiations with the Americans on the basis of accepting the Jordan plan. This is not what happened in fact.

[Question] The question is how this will affect the status of the pro-Jordanians in the territories.

[Answer] One should remember that the pro-Jordanians' status in the territories is also a function of the PLO's status in the territories. Since the PLO's status has constantly been eroded since the start of the intifada campaign, the PLO's status has constantly been eroded. The status of the pro-Jordanian elements will strengthen in the long run, since sooner or later the fact that the PNC did not provide substantive proposals to the potential negotiating elements, namely Jordan, will surface and leave its mark also on events internally in Judaea and Samaria.

[Question] I conclude from your remarks that you believe that in the future, or perhaps in the not too distant future, bodies will emerge in Judaea and Samaria which will call on King Husayn to hold negotiations with the Americans.

[Answer] Yes, we should remember that bodies have already emerged in Judaea and Samaria which have called on King Husayn to join the negotiations.

[Question] I am not referring to the area village leagues, of course.

[Answer] Let me tell you, I will not name local leaders and I do not talk only with teachers, I talk particularly with the outstanding leaders of the local population. These leaders, and in recent weeks I have talked with the most prominent among them, expect Husayn to set out on the road himself. It is clear that if he manages to promote this or that aspect of the problem the gap will be closed by the acquiescence of the PLO.

[Question] The area village leagues now: In your opinion, have the area village leagues justified their existence? After all, lately they have raised demands [derishot] which competed even with the PLO supporters.

[Answer] Look, the question is what aspect of the area village leagues' existence we are examining. If we look at the aspect of their local, village activities then we have a considerable, self-evident list of projects promoted by the leagues within the villages themselves. As for the political aspect, one should remember that anything taking place in this sphere is especially a call by the leagues' leaders on King Husayn to join the negotiating process. I would like to make another note here: Another demand [derisha] was raised in the last meeting to view the Jordanian and Palestinian people as one. I think that this contains a very interesting intonation. However, this pressure by the leagues to join the negotiations is not irregular. The prime minister also addressed a demand [derisha] to Husayn to join the negotiations without preconditions. The leagues' members enjoy aid since they get up and express themselves in a daring manner, unprecedented by any body in Judea and Samaria. They voice views favoring peaceful coexistence, favoring a dialogue, favoring the approach of negotiations for a solution of the problem. We did not have such a phenomenon in the past. This was voiced by other bodies in our political fabric of course, but not here, in Judea and Samaria. If tomorrow an organizational body is set up which calls for solving the Palestinian-Israeli problem through peaceful negotiations, it will gain the same support and enjoy the same aid received by the area village leagues.

[Question] Why did you not allow the leagues to hold a rally or to declare the establishment of a party?

[Answer] I think that the matter of approval or disapproval is irrelevant since there was no process here of formal appeal to us for holding some kind of demonstration rally or for the declaration of a new political movement. This idea of the leagues to declare the formation of "a democratic movement for peace" is not new. This idea has been rife for months now in the area. In my opinion, this idea is not yet ripe.

[Question] Are you dissatisfied with the state of security in the region?
[Answer] Minister Ari'el Sharon declared he would not allow the
[Question] [unclear]

[Answer] Let us draw a distinction here. When we try to assess the current state of security in Judaea and Samaria we tend to forget past eras. Past eras were characterized by scenes which were greatly attractive to television reporters, while today, to their regret, this is not the case. Incidents of stone-throwing are too sporadic to disrupt daily life. When stones are hurled, this lasts only a few minutes and life then falls into its routine course again. I think it can surely be stated that for some months now the West Bank has been relatively calm, even absolutely calm compared to the days when tires were burning in the streets and we had to use teargas or other measures.

[Question] To what do you attribute the quiet, the absence of demonstrations?

[Answer] I think a number of reasons account for this. First, I think that the PLO's stand in the West Bank has been harmed to a certain degree. It has been harmed also by the very fact that key positions such as the municipalities, which were umbrella frameworks for various activities, were affected. The space occupied by Husayn in the political system today: we must admit that today he has gained a preferred status on the part of the Palestinians, too. After all it was 'Arafat who condescended to go to Amman. The other party, the pro-Jordanian party, was strengthened and naturally this damaged the status of the pro-PLO elements in the area. Second are the acts carried out both by the security bodies and by the civilian administration.

[Question] Are the Arab inhabitants' claims about the expropriation of tens of thousands of dunams correct?

[Answer] I would not use the Arab style of stating figures in hundreds of thousands, or figures of this order. There has lately been expropriation of land in several areas, mostly for security needs and some for settlement needs, but nowhere near the figures and dimensions reported.

COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL STRESSES NEED FOR COEXISTENCE

Athens ELEVTHERTOTYPIA in Greek 14 Feb 83 p 13

[Interview with David Kenan, member of the Political Bureau of the Israeli Communist Party, by correspondent F. Ikonmidis: "Peace Unattainable Without Co-Existence"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] Israel is like a spoilt child none of whose whims are denied by America.

Of course, apart from its external problems, every country also has an internal evolution which influences in one way or another its international orientations and its aims.

And the Israeli nation has today, for the first time since its foundation, serious internal problems which stem from the rising opposition of an important segment of the Israeli people and from a serious economic crisis which plagues this country at present.

"The current political situation in Israel" says member of the Political Bureau of the Israeli Communist Party David Kenan to "ELEVTHERTOTYPIA", "is characterized by two tendencies. A positive one and a negative one. The positive tendency found its expression in Israeli society after the war of aggression against Palestinians in Lebanon.

For the first time the so-called "national unity of soul" which existed in the previous wars against the Arabs was shaken. If, in the past, only communists and their allies were opposed to those wars, we can say now that a notable section of the population expressed its displeasure.

The committee "against aggression in Lebanon" was formed, the movement "Peace Now" was founded and the movement of cadets and soldiers who refuse to serve in Lebanon. More than 1000 infantrymen and 150 officers sent letters of protest to the government.

The people's reaction manifested itself in other ways too, such as women's hunger strikes in Jerusalem, picket-lines, mass meetings. A large number of Israeli intellectuals, actors, authors, poets, painters etc. expressed their protest in writing."

within the Labor Party

But also within Israel's Labor Party, David Kenan claims, "it is not only Yitzhak Peres and Rabin but also other elements who want a more democratic approach to the Palestinian problem."

"The Palestinian problem," Kenan continues, "is an Israeli problem too. Without a solution to the Middle-East crisis, without a recognition of the Palestinians' rights, there is no prospect of our attaining peace, security and normal relations between Israel and the neighboring Arab countries."/>

The United Nations 1974 resolution provides for the autonomy of two nations, the Jews and the Arabs of Palestine. The realistic solution for the existence of the two nations in the region is gaining ground among the Israeli and the Arab people. Israel is a new country in the area and it must find a common language with its neighbors."

1 Billion Dollar War

On the other hand, the economic crisis in Israel is getting worse. The country was hit in 1982 by an inflation of over 155 percent which is perceived as one of the highest in the world. At the same time, Israel's foreign debt, in particular to the U.S.A., has reached \$22 billion.

And Israel's war expenses are monstrous.

One of the leaders of the Labor Party, Paul Yacobi, announced that the direct and indirect expenses in the initial stages of the war were \$3 billion."

When the Jews had a country of their own, as the disinherited of life, they took a pioneering role in the International Progressive Movement. On the contrary, after the State of Israel was founded, a large segment of the Jewish people turned conservative. We did not resist the temptation to put our trust in Mr. Kagan.

... on the one hand "a particularly serious chauvinistic campaign against the Jews" and "the support by the U.S.A. and other Western countries of the Government of Israel, on the other hand, because they fear the development of progressive liberation movements in the "Middle East" influenced by the USSR in a conservative direction.

Kenan continues, "an ever greater number of people understand that solution of the Palestinian problem, Israel's future is linked

... Nazareth, and it is represented by ... National Executive Committee.

...the Jewish people today in Israel is not insignificant: it is, according to the prophet, "a remnant of the remnant."

POLL ON CONCESSIONS IN JUDAEA, SAMARIA

HA251447 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Feb 83 pp 1, 11

[Modi'in Ezrahi public opinion poll]

[Text] About half of the Israeli citizens are not ready for any territorial concession whatsoever in Judaea and Samaria while another half are ready to make such a concession within the framework of a peace treaty with Jordan. This emerges from a public opinion poll conducted by the "Modi'in Ezrahi" Company for MA'ARIV.

Some 1,168 people throughout Israel (except for Kibbutzim and inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Golan Heights) were asked the following question: "Are you in favor of a peace treaty with Jordan as part of which Israel will undertake to evacuate territories in Judaea and Samaria?"

These were the answers (in percentages):

	<u>Feb</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>Jan</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>Sep</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>Aug</u> <u>1982</u>
Against: Not ready to any concession	46.6	42.4	52.0	46.8
In Favor: Ready to give up on certain parts of Judaea and Samaria	36.7	39.8	34.2	40.4
In Favor: Ready to give up on the whole of Judaea and Samaria, except for East Jerusalem	9.0	11.5	8.5	9.0
In Favor: Ready to give up on the whole of Judaea and Samaria, including East Jerusalem	2.4	1.5	2.7	2.0
Did Not Reply	5.4	4.9	2.5	1.9

This data shows that in February 1983, when compared to the findings of the poll conducted in January, a slight rise has occurred within the "hawkish" camp in the public and there has been a certain decline in the strength of the political "middle-of-the-road."

The following question was also asked in the poll: "If early elections to the Knesset were held this year, who do you think would have a better chance of winning?"

These were the answers (in percentages):

	<u>Entire Public</u>	<u>Likud Supporters</u>	<u>Alignment Supporters</u>	<u>"Floating Votes"</u>
Alignment	10.1	1.6	32.3	8.0
Likud	61.8	87.6	28.9	49.7
both have same chance	22.3	9.4	35.3	30.9
Did not reply	5.4	1.4	3.4	11.4

These findings indicate that a significant majority [line apparently dropped in the original] a better chance of winning early elections to the Knesset. The ratio of those who believe that the Likud will win in early elections to those who believe that the Alignment will win is 6 to 1 (from among those who predict the superiority of one of the two big parties).

It is interesting to note that even among that sector of the public which does not have any political preference, those who foresee an advantage to the Likud (some 50 percent) have the lead by a ratio of 6 to 1. Nevertheless, about one-third of the "floating votes" of today foresee "a close run."

Of course, many do think that their party has a good chance of winning. Nevertheless, a large proportion of them (35 percent) also foresees "a close run."

The public positions about the chances of each of the big parties to win early elections were polled during the week when the commission of inquiry report was released.

The poll was conducted between 7 and 11 February as part of a survey for the paper by the "Modi'in Ezrahi" Company.

IAF CHIEF LAPIDOT REJECTS PENTAGON ASSERTION

TA240865 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Feb 83 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Air Force commander Aluf [Maj Gen] 'Amos Lapidot yesterday rejected the Pentagon's contention that Israel does not need the Lavi jet fighter.

The U.S. has been withholding technological assistance for the plane's manufacture. Israel wanted to buy wings and stabilizers from the U.S. because American firms have the advanced technology needed to produce the desired composite materials. An American response to the Israeli requests is nearly two months overdue.

Testifying before the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Israel does not need to develop the new-generation fighter. The IAF [Israel Air Force] operates U.S.-made F-15's and F-16's, which, he said, are superior to the projected Lavi. Israel is anxious to build the Lavi in order to promote its exports, Weinberger alleged.

But Lapidot yesterday insisted Israel "needs the Lavi." The plane is designed to replace the Skyhawks and Kfir's, which are used for ground support, such as attacking artillery batteries, tanks and other ground targets. The F-15's and the shorter-range F-16's are interceptors. "They are too expensive for (ground support) operations. They have different characteristics," Lapidot told THE JERUSALEM POST.

The Lavi is expected to be "a workhorse operating under the umbrella of the F-15 and F-16," another defense source told the POST. Even the U.S., with all its money, now they need various types of aircraft. They recently acquired from Britain the rights to develop and adapt the Harrier vertical-takeoff-and-landing fighter. The Americans call it the AV-8, the source noted.

The source, who asked not to be identified, also rejected Weinberger's report that Israel wants the Lavi in order to compete for foreign markets. "Reports can be expected only after the Lavi becomes

operational and in large enough quantities in the IAF. That will take many years, he said.

Lapidoz, who headed the Lavi project before becoming Air Force commander, said Israel wishes to produce some of its planes locally, so as to give the Air Force control over the rate of production and changes.

Earlier, in an address to the 25th Israel annual conference on aviation and astronautics, Lapidoz said that "a tailor-made aircraft, made to fit the needs of our Air Force."

No less important will be its role in "advancing our technological ability," he said.

The engineers, computer operators, controllers and others involved need a platform to analyze the battle scenario, define operational requirements and develop new systems. "The Lavi project provides us with this exact platform," Lapidoz stressed.

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'POST' ANALYZES PNC POLICIES, RESOLUTIONS

EA240757 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Feb 83 p 8

Editorial: "The Same Old Brew"]

[Text] Once again the Palestine National Council [PNC] the roof body of the PLO, has opted for double talk in order to keep its contesting factions together.

Winding up long deliberations in Algiers, the PNC endorsed a series of resolutions designed not to rock the boat. At the same time it left open--without saying so--the possibility for Jordan's King Husayn to enter into negotiations with Israel and the U.S. He has a mandate to talk, but no mandate to represent the Palestinians. For Husayn that may be a relief of sorts, since in theory, at least, it could give him more flexibility.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Shamir was quick to denounce any Palestinian intent to use Husayn as a front man for talks that would be aimed at ultimately giving over the West Bank and Gaza to the PLO. If that was a real danger Mr Shamir's blowy rhetoric might have been in place. But so far the danger is a figment of the government's imagination. By harping on it Mr Shamir only makes it appear as if the PLO and its contortions, as displayed in Algiers, are to be taken seriously.

The truth of the conference in Algiers was expressed in closed session by Yasser 'Arafat and in public by 'Isam al-Sartawi, the PLO moderate, who, after not being permitted to speak at the council, walked out.

It warned the hard-liners that the PLO, after Lebanon, is desperately bereft of a base, and relegated to the role of a political nomad dependent upon the Arab states who have never genuinely aided the Palestinians. And al-Sartawi, in an interview, said the council was a failure because the PLO could make no political headway without changing the Palestinian covenant and being ready to come to terms with Israel.

These statements reflect reality. That reality opens the way for talks with Israel, and should be welcomed by Israel. But as long as Israel's official position is that it will not negotiate with the PLO, the desire to ultimately incorporate the West Bank into Israel will remain a distant dream. Talks with the Jordanian King, despite protestations

the Ministry, with official nerves on edge. For under this policy there is nothing genuine to talk about, no matter how often government spokesmen repeat the word autonomy.

Ironically, it is precisely this knowledge that may spur Husayn to enter into negotiations, under American auspices. For such a move would at least symbolize his claim to the contested territory.

At the same time, however, nothing more can be foreseen except the status quo, until Israel and its Arab interlocutors-to-be step back from their absolutes.

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CHAIRMAN OF VILLAGE LEAGUE REPLACED

Civilian Administration Fires Leader

TA010751 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by David Richardson]

[Text] The head of the Judaea and Samaria civil administration Brig Gen Shlomo Ilia, yesterday replaced the chairman of the Hebron area village league, Muhammad al-Nasir, a local engineer. The new chairman is (Jamil al-Amla), a businessman from the village of Bayt Awla.

Al-Nasir said last night that his dismissal followed a meeting between Ilia and the head of the Federation of Palestinian Leagues, Mustafa Dudin. He intimated that he was being fired for not toeing the line set by Dudin and Ilia in the management of the leagues or in the political stance the leagues were adopting on wider political issues such as possible peace talks with Israel.

Al-Nasir is considering petitioning the High Court of Justice on the grounds that Brigadier General Ilia's orders are an unjustified interference in a legally constituted organization of which he, al-Nasir, was elected chairman.

He alleged that Ilia had provided (al-Amla) with 1,290,000 Israeli shekels and approved a new bank account to allow him to buy support in the Hebron area.

Following the meeting between Ilia and al-Nasir yesterday at the Bet El headquarters of the civil administration, al-Nasir was ordered to give up his pistol. The head of the Hebron civil administration, Lt Col Shmu'el Segev, was also instructed not to have any further dealings with him.

Al-Nasir complained that a recent decision to withdraw 50 percent of the weapons allocated to the village leagues in the area was being applied only to people who were known to be his supporters.

Senior sources in the civil administration said that al-Nasir's dismissal was part of an extensive programme to re-organize all of the village leagues. Their management and use of funds are to come under closer scrutiny and

control, and the extensive presence of weapons, which has led to some violent clashes, is to be curbed. All this is part of a drive to ensure that the leagues maintain a more respectable and local profile while questions of high politics are left to the federation headed by Dudin.

In particular, these sources pointed out, al-Nasir had invited Likud MK David Magen, a close supporter of ousted Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon, to Hebron early in February despite a specific request or order from Ilia not to do so.

Civilian Administration's Demand Rejected

TA010816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The leadership of the Hebron hills village league decided this morning to turn down the demand by the head of the civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria that the league's head, Muhammad al-Nasir, should resign. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that at a meeting the leadership held this morning, it was decided to send cables to the prime minister and defense minister with a request to stop what they called the head of the civilian administration's attempts to intervene in the village league's internal affairs. Absent from the meeting were the supporters of (Jamil al-Amla) who is intended to replace al-Nasir. The decisions also said that the village league is not a department of the civilian administration, and the latter has no right to intervene in its internal affairs. Muhammad al-Nasir and the leadership's members have decided to appeal to the High Court of Justice and, in the meantime, they have summoned the league members to a general meeting on Saturday, 5 March, to discuss the situation.

Our correspondent has learned that Muhammad al-Nasir has rejected a proposal to accept a post in the federation of village leagues if he gives up his position in the Hebron league.

CSO: 4400/227

SHEFAR'AM MEETING PROTESTS REGIONAL COUNCIL PLAN

Protest Rally Convened

TA261523 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Shefar'am, 26 Feb (ITIM)--Delegations from some 50 Arab settlements in the Galilee and the triangle, including some 30 mayors and heads of local councils, participated today in a protest rally convened by the National Council for the Defense of the Arab Land and the coordinating committee of the Arab councils which believe they have been exploited by the establishment of the new regional council of Misgav.

Among the participants of the convention were also MK's Hamad Khalaylah and Muhammad Watad (Alignment); Me'ir Wilner, Tawfiq Zayyad and Tawfiq Tubi (Rakah); as well as a delegation on behalf of Mapam that included, among others, Binyamin Yas'ur, who is the secretary of the Mapam center, and Latif Dori, who is coordinator of Arab affairs.

The convention, in which hundreds of delegates from all over the country participated, came in protest over the inclusion of 150,000 dunams of land--some of them owned by Arabs--in the Misgav regional council.

Some 20 Galilee villages see themselves at a disadvantage as a result of this Interior Ministry decision. The many speakers at the meeting protested what they called "the intention to expropriate and annex Arab land."

Shefar'am Mayor (Ibrahim Nimr Husayn), also warned against the inclusion of 24,000 dunams from Shefar'am in the 'Emeq Yizre'el regional council's jurisdiction.

The resolutions adopted at the convention demanded that the interior minister appoint representatives of the Arab local councils to the National Planning Committee.

The convention also demanded an increase in the aid and grants to the Arab municipal authorities as well as the completion and equalization of the various social services.

The resolutions adopted at the convention said that the Arab councils should be supplied with state-owned land according to their needs, regarding the Israeli Arabs as equal citizens with full rights.

The convention called on public organizations and "the democratic Jewish forces" to support the just struggle of the Arab councils.

It was decided in Shefar'am to welcome "the positive atmosphere that characterized the resolutions of the Palestine council in Algiers, and regard them as renewed proof of the PLO's readiness to opt for the solution of a just peace."

Cables expressing support and congratulations were received at the Shefar'am convention by various figures and organizations, among them MK Shulamit Aloni.

Gur-Arye Interview

TA271646 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Interview with Binyamin Gur-Arye, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, by Gay Bekhor on 27 February; place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Gur-Arye] First of all, I would like to explain that the annexation of land is only an act of planning and does not change the ownership of the land, that anyone who owned the land remains the owner. There is no intention to take any of that land which, as I said, has only been annexed for planning objectives. In the past this land was not allocated to any Arab council and it was not taken from the Arab councils and annexed to the Misgav regional council. At the same time, since we say that there is a policy of the Ministry of the Interior and of the entire government that Arab local councils' infrastructural plans must be completed, every Arab local council will be given the possibility to develop for 25 years in the future. So, people may have other objectives. We know that there are certain well-known political elements who always look for some sort of pretext before the land day of 30 March to heat up the atmosphere artificially and bring about a situation in which they will perhaps be able to hold a day of protest against the country, in fact, not against matters that are practical.

[Question] Are you accusing yesterday's rally in Shefar'am of also having political implications?

[Answer] There is no doubt that such a rally has political implications and its organizers have never denied that it also has a certain political nature. There are certain elements from among the participants who, each and every year--and we must perhaps look 5 or 7 years backward to see this--look for some sort of motto [last word in English], whether genuine or imaginary, in order to fight for it and heat up the atmosphere and cause what is called a concentration of the forces over a specific issue. This is how it has been for the last 7 years.

[Question] Alignment Knesset member Hamad Khalaylah said at the rally yesterday that the Arabs intend to defend every inch of what remains to them of the Galilee land. Is there no danger, sir, that this land dispute could grow and spread into broader dimensions, violent ones?

[Answer] I do not think it has to develop into such a dispute as you describe because, in the final analysis, of the reasons we are citing. First, no changes are being made in the ownership. Whoever owns land owns it; the land remains his. This move is not intended to change the ownership. It is only for planning. In short, every Arab village can appeal today, and there are actually a few who have already appealed, and this is automatically examined positively. For example, 'En 'Elabon submitted an appeal to the person in charge of the district and I know that he is examining it positively. So, if every Arab village that feels itself harmed by this matter, instead of speaking politically with demonstrations and rallies, goes to the person in charge of the district or to the head of the council, they can sit down and negotiate and if there have been injustices, they will be rectified.

CSO: 4400/227

BRIEFS

INDUSTRIAL PLANTS IN JUDAEA, SAMARIA--In the years 1980 to 1982 the Israel Land Authority purchased over 2,479 dunam of land in Judaea and Samaria. This is revealed in an internal report prepared by the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department. Appearing before the Likud's forum on economic affairs at the Laromme Hotel in Jerusalem, Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat said that 229 Israeli industrial plants are currently operating in Judaea and Samaria and another 82 plants are expected to transfer from Israeli territory beyond the green line. The minister said that most plants in Judaea and Samaria are highly scientific and technological. According to him, this area should not be transformed into a hotel where people sleep during the night while they work within Israel's boundaries during the day. [Text] [TA241208 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Feb 83 p 5]

INDEPENDENT FACTION FORMATION--Washington--MK Hayim Druckman has said he made up his mind to break away from the National Religious Party [NRP] and to establish on March 16 his own independent faction "Matzad." In an interview to the New York-based newspaper "YISRA'EL SHELANU" ["OUR ISRAEL"], Druckman said that Matzad would formally decide on 16 March to run for election independently and that, following this decision, he himself would announce the formation of an independent Knesset faction headed by him. Druckman believes that his movement will enjoy "considerable success" in the elections and will win more votes than the NAP, Tami and the Tehiya put together. When asked whether Tehiya MK Hanan Porat is expected to join the new faction, Rabbi Druckman replied that "Matzad has no plans of attracting Knesset members from other parties." [Text] [TA241059 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Feb 83 p 2]

JANUARY COMMERCIAL DEFICIT--In January Israel's commercial deficit was 6 percent higher than the average of the second half of 1982 and reached \$335 million. This was reported yesterday, 24 February, by the spokesman of the Central Bureau of Statistics. January imports were almost twice the exports: 700 million shekels compared with exports of only \$365 million. [Currency as published] The value of January imports without ships and aircraft and with the seasonal influences deducted was 4.5 percent higher than December. Compared with last January there was an increase of 17 percent in the import of consumer goods, an increase of 27 percent in the import of investment assets, while the import of production input dropped by 1 percent. The imports of fuel dropped by 4 percent. The value of the

exports with seasonal deductions was 11 percent higher in January than in December. Industrial exports without diamonds increased by 8 percent compared with the average in the second half of 1982 and reached \$223 million. The exports of diamonds totalled about \$95 million and agricultural exports totalled about \$46 million, a drop of one-third compared with last January. [Text] [TA251514 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Feb 83 p 5]

NEW WINE DISTILLERY--The national secretary of the Food Workers' Union, Moshe Kohen-Saban, has said that the danger of dismissal is threatening the 400 workers in the Rishon Leziyyon and Zikhron Ya'aqov vineyards because the Vineyard Owners' Association has decided to establish a new wine distillery in Judaea and Samaria. He said that the union was vigorously opposed to closing the wine distilleries. This has also been announced by the Rishon Leziyyon Municipality and the local Zikhron Ya'aqov Council. The Knesset and Histadrut Shinuy factions have announced that they will fight against the government's intention to transfer the wine distilleries to Judaea and Samaria. The Shinuy faction says that this is an arbitrary blow to historic plants and senior workers for the sake of harmful political moves. [Text] [TA251520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Feb 83]

SOVIET AID TO COMMUNIST PARTY--Soviet financial aid has recently been funneled to activists of the Jordanian Communist Party in the Judaea and Samaria area. It has been learned that through its supporters in Judaea and Samaria, the Soviet Union is trying to create an alternative to representatives identified with the PLO, with a view to future negotiations on the future of the region. The Jordanian Communist Party was outlawed in Judaea and Samaria during Jordanian rule. [Text] [TA010943 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Mar 83 p 8]

CSO: 4400/227

JORDANIAN PAPER INTERVIEWS PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL

JN131002 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Mar 83 p 23

[Exclusive interview with Pierre al-Jumayyil, chairman of the Lebanese Phalangist Party, at the party's headquarters in Beirut, date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] In your opinion, will the present negotiations lead to any positive results?

[Answer] It is natural that this country rejects the occupation of its territories, this country had to choose one of two options: War or negotiations. As for the first option, we always asked the Arab world to prepare for the confrontation with Israel, particularly since the latter was preparing to invade Lebanon. We told the Arabs that they must organize an army to defend the Palestinian cause. If they had done that, we stressed, and if Lebanon had failed to do its duties then they would have the right to blame us, leaving us and the Palestinian people to face this issue alone meant leaving us to commit suicide. So, militarily speaking we were incapable and hence we chose the second option. I believe that the Lebanese negotiating stand so far is most honorable and the way Lebanon is negotiating is the best way. We hope that we will be able to help our friends and the Arabs. I want to say that we depend on the Arabs in order to save ourselves and the Arabs as well.

[Question] These negotiations, however, may lead to either a security settlement or to a peace treaty with Israel. What do you think of this?

[Answer] We are still at the negotiating stage. What is important now is that Lebanon regains its sovereignty and independence. We are ready to accept any initiative capable of securing and preserving our honor, integrity and conscience. The Lebanese negotiating stand is sincere and no one can criticize it because we want to achieve peace and security for our country.

[Question] Do you support concluding a peace treaty with Israel?

[Answer] We do not wish for war with anyone. On the contrary, we wish for peace with everyone because Lebanon is a small country and derives its strength from its legitimacy. The Arab brothers have recently started to understand our situation and this is a good sign. God willing, we will be able to save Lebanon and the Arabs as well. We do not want war but we will defend ourselves if war is forced on us.

What draws the attention here is that the Arabs did not move to help Lebanon during the Israeli invasion. This is shameful. Israel entered Lebanon and for 48 hours faced no resistance. We have had enough slogans and threats. I say this because we all know that Israel's invasion do not come as a surprise because it was preparing for this invasion and we warned the Arabs and asked them to move politically and militarily yet no one heard our appeals and requests.

[Question] But Israel insists on a peace treaty with Lebanon?

[Answer] We want to have peace with Israel and all the world. But it will not be in the interest of anyone if we reach peace with Israel and have war with the Arabs. Therefore, we move on the basis of trying to convince both sides that they must leave Lebanon alone and understand its special conditions.

[Question] What is required of the Arabs now?

[Answer] We hope that the Arabs will help Lebanon as brothers. We hope that they will not ask Lebanon to do something they would not do themselves. We are ready to accept any step in favor of the Arabs' interests. However, we reject any step that might harm Lebanon's interests.

[Question] The Kahan committee accused some Lebanese forces' elements [of being involved in the massacres].

[Answer] The Kahan committee's accusation is false. I consider it part of the internal struggle [in Israel] and that they have used this point to fight each other. Those who committed the Sabra and Shatila massacres are animals and we have no such animals among our ranks neither in the party nor in Lebanon. I stress that the Kahan committee did not tackle the details. For example, the committee did not ask us about the issue even though our integrity is at stake. We reject discussing it.

[Question] Yet there is a Lebanese fact-finding committee discussing this issue. How far has the committee got in its search?

[Answer] We place ourselves at the service of this committee. But can this committee call on anyone in Israel to interrogate him? No. Therefore, this committee will not be able to do anything. We suggest that an international committee be formed to re-open the inquiry because neither the Israel nor the Lebanese committees can do anything. An international committee trusted by all sides is the best solution in order to reach the truth of what happened.

[Question] Is the battle for the mountain over?

[Answer] The battle of the mountain is the battle of the foreigners because the Lebanese reject what is happening there. This area was an example of the Lebanese coexistence formula. The foreigner does not want to see this formula working successfully because it represents civilization.

[Question] Walid Junblatt says he is ready to open a dialogue with you. What is your answer to this?

[Answer] I am ready to have a dialogue with any person even if he were an enemy provided that any such dialogue take place quietly and logically and, most of all, that it serves Lebanon's interests and meets the Lebanese's aspirations.

SHI'ITE LEADER SAID TO WANT PEACE WITH ISRAEL

TA061200 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Mar 83 p 3

[Report by Me'ir Hare'uvani]

[Text] The committee for peace established by the leadership of the Shi'ite sect in the Sidon area is planning to hold a large rally in the hamlet of al-Ghaziyah, near Sidon, in about 2 weeks. The rally is due to be attended by representatives of all the sects and religions in the area, including Muslims, Christians, Druze, Phalangists and Haddad's personnel. The purpose of the rally will be to create a framework for dialogue and cooperation between all the ethnic elements and groups in order to advance the interests of southern Lebanon and reach an arrangement with Israel that will make possible an open border and normalization of relations between the two countries.

"The population of the area will be the cement in any arrangement between Lebanon and Israel," said the representative of the committee for peace, Ibrahim Radar, an inhabitant of al-Ghaziyah. Radar belongs to the family that founded and led the al-Amal movement of the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon, together with the religious leader Musa Sadr (who disappeared in Libya in August 1978).

Radar told MA'ARIV that he was convinced that the majority of the southern Lebanese population was united in the view that normalization of relations with Israel would benefit the Lebanese themselves. He himself, he said, was preaching the signing of a peace agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

Referring to the governmental announcements from Beirut that opening the border for the transit of goods from Israel would destroy Lebanon's economy and jeopardize its relations with Arab countries and so there should be a boycott on commercial relations with Israel, Radar said that "everyone knows and sees that there is a flood of goods from Israel and the Lebanese merchants are importing millions of dollars worth in goods in transit [last word in English] via Haifa Port. Most of the large companies in Lebanon are partners in these deals and senior government officials have strong economic interests in these companies."

He said that the central administration was not felt in the south and if there were representatives and agencies, they were appallingly corrupt. "If this injustice is not corrected, the south will not gain the flow of means for the

improvement of the civilian infrastructure (roads, electricity and so on) and a rise in the level of services. Bitterness will increase and the area will remain ripe for the development of cells of rebellion and anarchy. Independent armed groups will emerge and increase the instability and lack of security. Under such conditions nothing will be able to prevent the hostile armed elements from again taking over and the south will again become a war zone."

The speaker regards Maj Sa'd Haddad as a "Lebanese patriot who has contributed toward guarding Lebanese identity." "As long as Haddad keeps a low profile in the deployment of his forces in the south and cooperates with the population, and particularly with the Shi'ite Muslims, his place among the builders of the new, independent Lebanon is guaranteed."

Radar is asking the Israeli authorities to make a special gesture to the Lebanese people and the population of southern Lebanon and to quickly release some 1,200 Lebanese jailed in the Ansar Camp. "People from Bangladesh who were here and collaborated with the terrorists were released long ago and sent back to their country. The method of releasing the Lebanese prisoners, through an appeals committee, has failed and it should be changed before it becomes a stain shading Israel's flag," he said.

CSO: 4400/244

SALIM GUARANTEES SECURITY OF PALESTINIANS

NC261110 Paris AFP in English 1058 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Beirut, 26 Feb (AFP)--The Lebanese Government is committed to guaranteeing the security and welfare of Palestinians legally residing in Lebanon and who are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNWARA), Foreign Minister Elie Salim has assured Arab ambassadors here.

But Mr Salim added, in a meeting with the ambassadors on Friday, that the government cannot take responsibility for security in regions of the country not controlled by the Lebanese Army, such as southern Lebanon, where threats have been made against Palestinians living near the coastal city of Sidon.

(In New York, UNWARA head Olof Rydbeck said yesterday that armed groups in southern Lebanon have killed and terrorized refugees in an effort to drive them from villages to the overcrowded 'Ayn al-Hulway Camp near Sidon.

(He said that in the last month 15 bodies have been found in the region, six of whom have been identified as Palestinian refugees. Mr Rydbeck added. However, that he had received "very positive assurances" from Israeli authorities, whose troops control much of southern Lebanon, that the refugees would be protected.)

The campaign to pressure refugees to move into the camps began in Sidon and its Christian suburbs, but it has now reportedly spread to coastal villages lying between Sidon and Tyre to the south.

UNWARA officials in Sidon have grown alarmed at the campaign. Local director Derek Nichols said this week that nearly 70 families in the area had left their homes to seek refuge with relatives or in the overflowing 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp, which already holds 18,000 people.

Early on Thursday, an organization calling itself the Lebanese voice of Sidon distributed a tract urging Palestinians to take shelter in the camps "to save (their) lives and property."

While the Israeli Army does patrol the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp, life in another refugee facility near Sidon, al-Miyah Wa Miyah, is much more precarious.

Some 1,500 residents, mostly women, children and elderly persons, have been living in terror since 8 February when a bomb blast destroyed 40 dwellings.

"No one dares leave the camp to go to work," said an official of the al-Miyah Wa Miyah social and humanitarian committee. "We have to pass by a roadblock of the Lebanese forces (the United Christian militia), another manned by the militiamen of Sa'd Haddad (who leads an Israeli-backed enclave in southern Lebanon), and in Sidon we can still be attacked by criminals."

A majority of the troops in the Lebanese forces belong to the right-wing Christian Phalange, whose militiamen have been widely accused of slaughtering hundreds of Palestinians in two camps south of Beirut in September.

On Wednesday, a rumor spread through the camp that a massacre was being planned for that evening.

"We warned the Israelis," the official said, "and they mounted a patrol but told us they could not protect each house."

Several organizations--including the United Nations interim forces in Lebanon--have accused Israel of having instigated the intimidation campaign.

But Israeli officials have remained silent on the issue. "It's an internal Lebanese problem," said an official assigned to Israeli military headquarters in Sidon.

A unit of the Lebanese forces is deployed near the al-Miyah Wa Miyah Camp, where a spokesman said that "despite all the sufferings the Palestinians have forced on the Lebanese in 8 years," he was prepared to "accept their presence in the camps until the legal authorities determine their fate."

The Palestinians, he argued, "commit attacks on the Israelis" who then carry out searches in the region. "Once again," he said, "the inhabitants are the ones who suffer the consequences."

Mr Salim, in his remarks to the Arab ambassadors, explained that there were two categories of Palestinians in Lebanon apart from those registered with UNWRA--those who are not recorded with the UN Agency and those who belonged to armed groups.

He said Lebanon would refuse to continue to shelter armed Palestinians, even if they possessed legal permits.

Government sources here said many Palestinians not registered with UNWRA entered Lebanon illegally over the last few years but were eventually granted proper entry documents.

Authorities here agreed last November to renew for 3 months the documents of 100,000 such persons who currently reside in the Gulf states and Western Europe. Several countries, including the United Arab Emirates and West Germany, had threatened to expel them to Lebanon.

CSO: 4400/244

ISRAELI RADIO REVIEWS HADDAD'S FORCES

TA161401 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Northern correspondent Hayim Hecht interviewed about Major Sa'd Haddad's forces by 'Amiqam Rothman--live over the telephone]

[Text] [Question] Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces entered Sidon on Monday and al-Nabatiyah yesterday, thus widening their control in southern Lebanon. It seems that the time has now arrived to recall who is meant by Major Haddad's forces.

[Answer] For 5 years, Haddad's forces have been called militias, phalangists, soldiers for a free Lebanon. Today, I think, it is definitely possible to speak of the forces as an army. I saw them this week and they bring an army to mind: Tanks, armored personnel carriers, artillery units, flags and parades. It gives that impression.

Haddad began an enlistment campaign about 4 months ago. For some reason, his army has a Christian image. But this is clearly incorrect. In the south where most of the inhabitants are Shi'ites, he enlists Shi'ites. Incidentally, he also trains them to serve as commanders and officers.

It must be made clear that this is not an army for missions of conquest. For example, one cannot send them to the al-Shuf mountains and ask them to establish peace there. They simply would not do that. Haddad explicitly describes his army's mission as keeping southern Lebanon free from terrorists. I think that for that mission his soldiers are good. For one, they have a strong feeling that they are defending their homes since they are operating in the south, where they are very familiar with the territory and know the inhabitants.

Perhaps it is also worth mentioning that these units, which we saw in Sidon and al-Nabatiyah, are nonregional companies which link up with popular militias, civil guards as they are called in the villages. Today, by the way, an additional force entered the village of (Hush al-Daynah) near Jubb Jannin. Haddad entered, the parade passed through, making the proper impression, and took up positions at the village's fringes, not at its center. Haddad repeatedly declares and stresses: I come to help the Lebanese Government, and I will not intervene in internal affairs of the south unless Lebanese Government officials ask me to.

[Question] And is he received with cheers there?

[Answer] Yes. The people of Lebanon have very fine political sense. They know who is worthcheering and who they have to cheer.

[Question] What about the attitude of the authorities. We have heard reports that they oppose Haddad, and on the other hand we have heard reports that the Lebanese Army is inclined to reintegrate him in their forces. And there's the matter of the salaries they are receiving. How do you explain this contradiction?

[Answer] One must pay attention to the timing of Haddad's forces' deployment, when this subject is being raised at the talks in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona. Haddad in effect is signalling to everyone: I am an existing fact. Amin al-Jumayyil has to digest this, and he is laboring under his classical dilemma. On the one hand, he knows that Haddad will defend the south; while on the other hand, he has a problem with the Arab world and certain circles of his army who still regard Haddad as a traitor. So formulas are dealt with, and efforts are made to transform squares into circles. What role will Haddad play? Perhaps, in our terms, you could say, they have a problem. They cannot make him the commander of the southern command because this would mean that he would have to work with the Lebanese general and be part of it.

[Question] But he was. He had been sent there as, let us say, major of their southern command.

[Answer] Yes. But they regard him today as a traitor because of his cooperation with Israel. Meanwhile, he calls them traitors because they neglected the Lebanese cause for money, letting the Syrians and the PLO take over there. The formula being worked out now is more or less that they will call his forces a border guard, and Haddad will be the commander of the southern border guard. He will belong to the system, but he will be an autonomous commander.

[Question] Is there a chance he will be promoted to the rank of colonel?

[Answer] I do not know. He says very harsh things about the Lebanese Army. It is interesting to compare the mobilization he started about 4 months ago and the one undertaken by the Lebanese Army, which succeeded in enlisting a small number [minyan] of soldiers. With your permission, 'Amiqam, we will hear what Haddad thinks about the Lebanese Army.

[Begin Haddad Recording--in English] For the Lebanese Army there is not a good chief of staff called General (Ibrahim Tawnus). And I believe in him. But unfortunately, I believe he will not be able to work in view of the political situation existing on the ground. He will not be able to organize [the] army as he wants. So this army whether [interrupted] [end recording].

[Hecht] The politicians, Haddad says, are still pulling all the strings in the army. It is only a collection of soldiers, and even if you given them the best equipment in the world, they will not be effective.

[Question] How do you explain his success in mobilizing and their failure?

[Answer] As I said, the Lebanese Army is not highly esteemed in its country, to use an understatement. You also have to take into account the power and strength of the communal militias. A druze, Christian or Shi'ite youth who is asked to enlist will answer that he prefers to enlist with his community's militia, which is usually affiliated with a political party, and to defend what he knows to be his interests.

[Question] But they both get their equipment from the same source. To cite Haddad, he told the commission of inquiry on the identification of the uniforms: "From the same restaurant."

[Answer] Yes, if we are dealing with restaurants it is worth mentioning here that today they have started receiving good things from the headquarters in Beirut--180 of Haddad's soldiers are receiving salaries from the Lebanese Government. Until a short while ago, Yoram Aridor had paid part of those salaries.

[Question] If that is so, where then do Israel's security interests enter into the picture?

[Answer] This is in fact an inevitable question. A few days ago I asked Haddad: Are you, Major Haddad, for the same security arrangements that Israel is talking about for the 45 km zone? Let us hear his answer:

[Begin Haddad recording--in English] I don't know. I have no comment about what Israel is demanding, but my only concern is my country. It happened that these 45 km are going with the [interrupted] [end recording].

[Hecht] Haddad, of course, is very polished in his political sensitivities. He answers that he has no reaction to Israel's demands. All that I do is for the good of my country. It happens, he said, that the matter of the 45 km coincides with Israeli interests as well.

CSO: 4400/244

ISRAELIS PURCHASE OFFICE SPACE IN BEIRUT

TA281311 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jan 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] The Foreign Ministry and the IDF purchased a beautiful house belonging to a rich Saudi Shaykh in the al-Yarzah suburb of East Beirut. The house was bought for the purchase of housing the Joint Foreign Ministry-IDF office in the Lebanese capital.

This was done at President al-Jumayyil's request, who asked that the unofficial Israeli representation be moved away from his palace in B'abda. The president's aides, who addressed the Israelis on this subject, claimed that it is unacceptable for an unofficial representation to be stationed so close to the presidential palace. They went on to say that this might cause "unpleasantness" to President al-Jumayyil, especially while the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations are still underway.

In the Foreign Ministry office in Beirut there are today three officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Their status is still unofficial but they act as diplomatic representatives in every way, meeting with Lebanese and U.S. Embassy officials. U.S. Envoy Morris Draper also visits occasionally in the Foreign Ministry office in Beirut for consultations and coordination, but these meetings have no official character.

There is competition among the Maronites in Beirut over entertaining the Israeli representatives. Almost every day the Israelis are invited to parties, dinners, and social meetings among the Christians in Beirut, and among their hosts are upper class families of the Lebanese capital. Only Muslim elements in Beirut show a cooler attitude toward the Israelis. And so Israeli correspondents stayed lately in Beirut testify that the situation in the field itself does not at all resemble the rigidity and the slow progress showed by the Lebanese in the talks, and in actual fact normalization already exists.

CSO: 4400/244

BRIEFS

TIES WITH ARABS, ISRAEL--Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil [the Phalangist party leader] has said in an interview that he expects the U.S. talks with Lebanon and Israel in Washington to result in agreement on a timetable for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. In an interview to be published by MONDAY MORNING MAGAZINE tomorrow, Monday, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said that Lebanon rejects peace with Israel and war with the Arabs, that it is ready for peace with both of them and that the Arab friends are working on a formula in this respect. He said Israel's demand for opening the Lebanese borders and for representation offices will be discussed later--that is, after months or years. He added: We support the Palestinian issue and appreciate our friendship with Syria, which is the gate of Lebanon. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil accused Israel and others of exploiting the Islamic-Christian relations in al-Shuf and 'Alayh. Shaykh Pierre also said the Saudi and Jordanian restrictions on Lebanese goods are not a serious matter. He stressed the need for complete withdrawal, adding: We prefer war over partial withdrawal. [Text] [NC131238 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 83]

ADVENT OF NEW LEBANESE PARTY--"The Alignment for Lebanon," is a new Lebanese party that will come into being next month. The founding members will include, among others, well-known Lebanese political figures who will be criticizing the past stage, including their own role during this stage. [Text] [JN131812 Paril AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 12 Mar 83 p 14]

OFFICERS ASKED TO JOIN ARMY--Free Lebanon Commander Major Haddad has issued the following: 1. After examining the status of the officers who have resigned from the Lebanese Army, it has become evident to us that they include some who have patriotic attributes and who are still capable of serving the homeland. On this basis, we have decided to accept those who wish to join the ranks of the free Lebanon Army. Thus, the officers who wish to do so should apply to this command so that their status can be determined. 2. The personnel whose names follow are requested to join immediately the centers fixed for them as follows: Unit No 202: Butrus Habib Tubiya, Khalid Ahmad al-Sayyid 'Ali, Ibrahim Tanyus Haddad and Mikhayil Tanyus al-Hasbani. Unit No 302: 'Ali 'Abd al-Hasan 'Atwah and Riyadh Kalakish. Unit No 204: Tony Shumayt. [Text] [NC080830 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Mar 83]

CSO: 4400/244

INFORMATION MINISTER PRAISES EFFORTS BY GULF MEDIA

GF081850 Doha QNA in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Doha, 8 Mar (QNA)--Omani Information and Youth Affairs Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas expressed hope that the GCC oil ministers will reach resolutions--in their next meeting--that are capable of ending the negative effects of the collapse in the oil prices of the oil-producing countries. He added that the oil problem has gone beyond the media stage to a more serious stage in the oil-producing countries and that the media cannot face this problem alone. He pointed out that the next Arab Gulf media plan will be part of an oil strategy to which the oil-producing countries will adhere.

In a statement to Qatari paper AL-RAYAH and carried by QNA, the Omani information minister praised the capabilities which the Gulf media have shown in confronting the many media campaigns that are aimed at defaming the oil-producing countries in various aspects. He said as a result of the objectivity of the Gulf media, we have succeeded in holding a dialogue with others by using logic.

'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas stressed that the Gulf media cannot be an alternative to the Arab media. He said: We are members of the Arab League and we have commitments; moreover all our capabilities can be utilized in Arab media moves in all international fields and arenas.

Answering a question as to whether there is currently a unified Gulf media, he said that there is coordination in many fields by the Gulf media and that there are joint Gulf institutions which enhance this coordination.

Al-Rawwas added that there is a desire to ensure greater Gulf media coordination to develop the Gulf media. But he pointed out that this cannot be an alternative to the media of each country because there are issues which only concern the countries individually.

CSO: 4400/245

QATAR

BRIEFS

OUTGOING AUSTRIAN ENVOY--His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn Khalifah al Thani, Deputy Amir and heir apparent, received at his office this morning Austrian ambassador to Qatar Dr Franz Schmidt on the occasion of the expiry of his term of office. [GF091402 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Mar 83]

CSO: 4400/245

RIYADH COMMENTS ON ISSUES FACING NONALIGNED SUMMIT

LD070633 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] The seventh summit meetings of the nonaligned group of countries will begin tomorrow Monday, in New Delhi, to discuss several political and economic issues of the group and their relation to the developments and variables in the international arena.

To regain the atmosphere of peace and mutual understanding in the international family was and still is the goal which the group of nonaligned countries--established 22 years ago--is trying to achieve. But the circumstances and variables occurring in the international arena since then, and up to now, have affected the course of the countries of the nonaligned movement which represents approximately half the population of the earth.

The intensification of the struggle between the two superpowers had the greatest effect on the evolution of the positions of the countries of the group in recent years. Because of that the group is trying, through its seventh conference, which will begin work tomorrow in New Delhi, to renew its efforts to establish a real balance in the relations among the members of the international family stemming from respect for the common interests [words indistinct]. Observers consider that one of the issues of concern to the New Delhi conference is the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan [words indistinct] which was held in New Delhi in February 1981, which called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

In the field of international [words indistinct] the economic issues which will be investigated by the conferees from the point of view of the economic problems which face most of the member countries in particular, and the Third World countries in general, are of equal importance.

The issue of the Palestinian people occupies a prominent position on the agenda of the conference, which will confirm the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and in establishing its independent state on its national territory.

Observers consider, in general, that the seventh summit conference of the nonaligned movement is being held under circumstances and amid variables which make it imperative for the countries of the group to achieve more cooperation and mutual support to preserve the peace and security [words indistinct] and to emphasize the economic growth to fulfill the aspirations of its peoples [words indistinct] whose economic structures are disturbed because of the unbalanced relation between the [word indistinct] countries and [word indistinct] states.

CSO: 4400/245

NEWSPAPERS EXPRESS HOPE FOR NONALIGNED SUMMIT SUCCESS

LD071447 Riyadh SPA in English 1206 GMT 7 Mar 83

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Riyadh, 7 March, SPA--The majority of Saudi newspapers today led with the seventh nonaligned summit due to open later today in New Delhi, and expressed hope that the gathering would succeed in finding solutions' to problems and challenges facing member states of the nonaligned movement.

The Jidda-based 'Ukaz stressed that the Iranian-Iraqi war would be high on the summit's agenda since all efforts "have failed so far to put an end to the 30-month-old conflict between the two neighbouring non-aligned member states."

The paper urged the summit to take a decisive decision to bring the devastating hostilities into a halt and apply punitive measures to Iran "if the Tehran regime insists on its intransigent stand and does not heed to peace calls."

It also expressed the hope that the gathering would find a just solution for the Middle East problem and the Palestinian cause which "has taken a new dimension in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the Zionist masterminded massacres against harmless Palestinians at Sabra and Shatila refugee camps."

The paper stressed that the movement's support for Arab just issues "depends on a unified Arab and Muslim stand" on questions of mutual concern, notably the Gulf war, the Palestine cause, the Middle East problem and the Lebanese crisis.

The Riyadh-based al-Jazirah urged the gathering to adopt an applicable formula to end the satanic Gulf war which only serves the malicious designs of the super powers while severely damaging the resources of the two warring Muslim states."

It expressed the hope that the summit "will emerge with a political declaration ensuring the rights of peoples seeking freedom and self-determination in Palestine, Afghanistan, Namibia and Eritrea and supporting their struggle against invading super powers and their agent regimes in Israel and Ethiopia."

The paper called on the nonaligned states to abandon political and economic disputes which "obstruct their efforts to realise unity, solidarity and collective action and to ensure their liberty, sovereignty, development and prosperity."

The Mecca-based AL-NADWAH expressed the hope that the meeting would achieve a comprehensive solution for the Iranian-Iraqi conflict and adopt a unified strategy to face the deteriorating economic situation affecting most of the nonaligned states.

The al-Dammam-based AL-YAWM said the majority of the countries of the world hope that the summit will adopt resolutions that can reduce dangers threatening world peace."

It urged the gathering to stop the 30-month-old conflict between Iran and Iraq and find a practical and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the West Sahara issue.

"We hope that the New Delhi summit will take practical and effective decisions preventing any attacks against the people" the paper said.

The Jidda-based AL-BILAD praised the kingdom's strong material and moral backing to the Palestine cause at all Arab, Islamic and international levels.

"The kingdom has spared no efforts to help the Palestinian people recover their usurped rights, including their right to self-determination and an independent state," the paper said.

It stressed that Saudi Arabia "giving prime concern to achieve a unified Arab stand that can help the Palestinian people utmost political and military deterrent capabilities needed to face Zionist challenges," it added.

CSO: 4400/245

SAUDI PAPERS URGE IRAN TO RECONSIDER WAR POLICY

LD111821 Riyadh SPA in English 1205 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 11 March, SPA--Saudi newspapers today called on Iran to reconsider its policy and abandon its stand on the war with neighbouring Iraq and expressed hope that various mediators would take positive steps to resolve the armed conflict.

'Ukaz, published in Jidda, said in an editorial the Iraqi arbitration proposal on ending the dispute with Iran was in response to the desire of the Arab and Muslim nations and the non-aligned movement to find a comprehensive and final settlement for the destructive war.

It added that Iran still insisted on war reparations as if it were the only afflicted party, while in fact both sides involved has suffered damage and accordingly shared equal rights. The paper noted that the Islamic goodwill mission had suggesting forming a special reconstruction fund to help both states and said this was a logical solution.

The paper affirmed that ending the Iraqi-Iranian war was vital not only to Iraq and Iran but also to the Gulf region's security and stability as well as to keeping it "aloof of foreign intervention by the big powers."

AL-MADINAH, also published in Jidda, in turn referred to Iraq's arbitration committee proposal which called among other things for punishing any party which did not abide by the committee's findings.

It urged the non-aligned movement to take a firm and decisive attitude towards Iran's rejection of the proposal by depriving it of any "effectiveness in resolving disputes."

The Iranian rejection seems to be a "fruit of the non-aligned summit," the paper said.

AL-RIYADH, published here, commenting on the same subject said the Iranian intransigent stand was not designed to recover a usurped right but to "prolong the war in the hope of achieving a fictitious victory and humiliating Iraq

while the Arabs were passing through a difficult situation in which Israel was the dominant power."

In view of this, "Muslim Iran should have served as an Arab supporter rather an ally to the enemy of religion and the people," it added.

The paper said mediation between the two countries was first started by those concerned in the Gulf ever since the war broke out but both sides directly involved imagined they could score a speedy victory and this led to the failure of goodwill efforts.

It added that by reconsidering its stand, Iran would enable its people to live in peace and security after having been scattered throughout the world and suffered from internal conflicts.

CSO: 4400/245

RIYADH COMMENTS ON IRANIAN COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL

LD091649 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 83

[News analysis by Jasir 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir]

[Text] Following the purchase of arms [words indistinct] the Tehran regime is strongly cooperating with the Zionist rulers. What is taking place in Lebanon is only one form of this cooperation. The hatred of the Ayatollah's regime is such that they have resorted to cheap intrigues as revenge in order to hit Iraq, which they cannot do by force.

The Tehran regime has started to coordinate actions in a scandalous manner with the Israeli entity in Lebanon against the French force participating in the multinational forces, only because France has sold arms to Iraq in the same way it sells arms to any other country that wants to buy weapons. The U.S. and Lebanese intelligence services were able to expose the Zionist-Iranian plot which aims at more than hitting Iraq. It is aimed at weakening and confusing the Lebanese authorities while they are facing Israeli intrasigence and ambitions in the current negotiations. That is, to exert pressure on it in order to gain some concessions. The aim of annoying the French unit is to remove it [word indistinct] as the Israeli forces had done before against the U.S. force but failed.

If this behavior is not surprising from Israel, it is, also, not unlikely from Iran as it could not fool international public opinion and [word indistinct] with their revolution slogan. Their cooperation with the Zionist enemy [words indistinct] and the Tehran rulers admitted it publicly. But the question we are forced to ask is: Have the rulers of Tehran decided to create a (?satanical) alliance in the area and to fight with it in the same trench against the Arab nation?

CSO: 4400/245

'AL-MADINAH' ON IRAN'S STAND ON GULF WAR

GF110734 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Mar 83

[From press review]

[Text] AL- MADINAH discussed the efforts that have been made and are being made to end the Iraqi-Iranian war and restore stability to the region and Iran's intransigent stand toward these efforts. The latest such stand was Iran's rejection of the Iraqi proposal to set up an international committee of heads of state to draw up the bases for ending the fighting and punishing any party that refuses to abide by the decisions of the committee which represents more than 100 countries.

AL-MADINAH noted: This Iraqi peace proposal is not the first to be made since the Iraqi-Iranian war broke out 30 months ago. It is not the first Iranian rejection either. AL-MADINAH said: The Iraqi proposal sets no preconditions, while the Iranian rejection was tantamount to a spontaneous rejection of peace for Iran did not even pause to consider and study the proposal.

In conclusion AL-MADINAH called on the nonaligned summit to adopt firm measures against Iran and not to disregard Iran's violation of international norms and its serious threat to world peace.

Commenting on the same matter AL-RIYAD said in its weekly issue: Iran has taken an intransigent stand on the war and has made impossible demands whose aim is not to achieve justice or regain usurped rights, for history records that southern Iran is Arab in its constitution, ethnically and linguistically. The purpose of these impossible demands is to prolong the war in the hope of an illusory victory.

CSO: 4400/245

'AL-MADINAH' ON IRANIAN PLANS TO TOPPLE KHOMEYNI

GF081434 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 5 Mar 83 p 1

[AL-MADINAH dispatch from Paris]

[Text] Reports here in Paris say that the failure of the last Iranian offensive against Iraq, in the direction of al-'Amarah, has caused concern in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps which is waiting for a chance to topple the regime and set up a new leadership under Ayatollah Montazeri, especially since Montazeri is fit for the leadership of the regime.

There are two currents inside the revolution guards corps. The first one stresses the necessity of assaulting the authorities and taking over the regime before the security apparatus succeeds in uniting with the Iranian Army which in turn will exploit this situation to liquidate the revolution guards corps and the regime altogether. This current is supported by the communists and Marxists with their different party and nonparty commitments, especially since the Marxists--who have suffered widescale arrests of their members by the regime that has put their previous calculations into disarray--see that time is not in their favor. The other current supports the idea of waiting for Khomeyni's death, because matters will then naturally go in their favor as Ayatollah Montazeri is the successor who is recognized by Khomeyni. Ayatollah Montazeri is considered the man who is supported by the majority of the revolution guards corps through his daughter's husband, Hashemi, who holds very important positions in both the military and political arenas inside the Iranian regime.

It should be noted that these two currents inside the revolutionary guards corps completely agree on the successor of the regime and do not differ in strategy. They differ only on the timing of the ouster of the regime and on whether the regime should be ousted before or after Khomeyni's death. It is known that Hashemi, the husband of Montazeri's daughter, is an intimate friend of Hadi Madreseh, whose name was on the list of those who participated in the plot which was supported by the Khomeyni regime in Bahrain.

CSO: 4400/245

RIYADH RADIO LINKS U.S., ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA, IRAN

LD062337 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Jasir 'Abd al-Aziz Jasir commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, once again we deal with the arms policy of the Zionist enemy. After entering the arms world as a major exporters of arms, military and political circles followed the Zionists' activities to exploit this situation so as to expand the Zionist influence in a number of areas in the world. Reports reveal that Israel has lately sold arms and military equipment to a number of countries, including Argentina, El Salvador and Iran, one of which acquired 98 percent of its military requirements from Israel. These reports also point out that the volume of the Israeli military exports has doubled many times since the seventies, reaching \$1.5 billion, equivalent to 40 percent of the gross Israeli exports for 1981. What do these reports indicate? A country with no more than 3 million people, including children, women and old people, occupies fifth position among the countries acquiring arms. Why does Israel need these arms? Is it for defense of the alleged secure boundaries?

In fact, this Israeli military avarice has two major objectives. The first is to ensure the Zionist expansionist policy, control over the occupied Arab territories and the plans to occupy more of these territories and the plans to occupy more of these territories through the military supremacy over all Arab countries. The second is to play the role of the middleman, supplying racist states and criminal groups with their arms requirements. There is close cooperation in the military field between the rulers of Tel Aviv and the rulers of South Africa and the regime of the Ayats [Iran]. This alone serves Israel economically as it sells American weaponry at prices much higher than those with which Israel bought them. It also serves Israel psychologically and satisfies its desire to approach and sympathize with racist regimes of the same ilk.

There remains one important point, as the reports note: That is, the United States knows what happens, yet does not object. It is as if its act to ban the sale of arms to racist regimes is a play which makes a mockery of the whole world. We do not want to go into details about American utterances about combatting terrorism and racism.

Whether American arms reach the racist regimes direct--regimes which are considered the biggest centers of international terrorism--or through Tel Aviv's rulers, the result is one and the same: Namely, these arms contribute to shedding the blood of millions of innocent people, as we have seen in the wars of Palestine, Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and the disturbances in Latin America.

The existing sympathy between the Zionist entity, Iran South Africa and other internationally rejected states for their policies and systems stems from a single truth: Birds of a feather flock together.

CSO: 4400/245

MEANS TO ENHANCE FRIDAY SERMONS, PREACHERS' AWARENESS DISCUSSED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 737, 2-8 Feb 83 pp 3-11

[Article: "They Ask You About Mosque Preachers"]

[Text] Royal Directive From His Majesty King Fahd: Mosque Imams Must Refer to al-Aqsa Mosque From Atop Podiums; Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani: Concepts Have Changed and Infidelity, for Example, Is No Longer Worship of Idols But Has Become Infidelity of Political and Economic Systems; Preachers Must Be Aware of These Modern Concepts; Shaykh 'Abdallah Khayyat: Preacher Must Deal With Islamic World Problems, Such as Problem of Jews, and With Evil Which Islam's Enemies Harbor for Orthodox Religion; Friday Witnesses Comprehensive Islamic Conference Every Week, Do We Benefit From It; What Should Preachers Speak About: About Jerusalem, Afghanistan and Israel's Attack on Lebanon or About Mustache and Beard; Today's Preachers Are Class of Semi-Educated People Who Have Transformed Imamship Into Job Whereas It Used to be Call and Message; Mosque Plays Political and Social Role, Do Preachers Understand This Role; What Information Media Can Do Over Long Period Can Be Done by Mosque More Quickly and Deeply Because Mosque Is More Influential on Hearts and Minds; Friday Sermon Is Most Effective Means of Education and Enlightenment But It Is Idle Means in Entire Islamic World; Today's Preacher Is One of Three: Traditionalist Who Stops at What Is Old, Imitator Who Repeats Modern Sermons or Interpreter Who Loses Way in Secondary Details; Mosque Podium Belongs to Entire Islamic Mass and Must Not Be Used to Air Personal Rancors or to Advocate Certain Creeds or Factions; Shaykh 'Abdallah al-'Aqla: University Professors and School Teachers Must Perform Role of Preacher in Quarters in Which They Live; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rubay'an: At Present, All Sermons Have Become Similar Because They Are Copied From One Volume That Includes Friday Sermons for Entire Year; Shaykh Salih al-Luhaydan: Sermon Must Be Comprehensive and Prohibitive, Containing Little That Dispenses With Lot; Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Sulayman: Imam Must Be Graduate of Shari'a College and Must Know Venerable Koran by Heart; Dr 'Ali 'Abbas al-Hakami: Today's Preachers Are Not Qualified to Perform Their Duties Because of Low Level of Their Education and Poor Arabic; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Shahwan: Problem Begins With Defining Prerequisites of Preacher, Namely: That He Be University Graduate, Capable of Selecting His Topics and Knowledgeable With Issues of Age; Muhammad Sfawat al-Saqqa': We Must Reevaluate All Mosque Preachers to Replace Unfit Among Them by Those Meeting Requirements; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Daghistani: Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts Has Cooperated With Imam Muhammad ibn Sa'ud University to

Educate Imams, So Why Shouldn't Ministry Cooperate With Other Universities; Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Salih: Preachers Are Appointed by Ministry and Supplied With Sermons, So How Could It Be Said They Are Unqualified and Their Sermons Are Unfit; Shaykh 'Abd al-Qadir 'Atiyah: Level to Which Friday Sermon Has Declined Makes It Must That We Establish Institute to Train Imams and Preachers; Shaykh Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir: Cause of Problem Is Increasing Number of Mosques to Extent That Is Incompatible With Number of Preachers; There Are Now Mosques Without Imams; Shaykh Jamil 'Abd al-Razzaq: Ministry of Pilgrimage Must Examine Preachers' Recompense So That It May Be More Definite and Binding; Muhammad al-'Abbadi: Percentage of Capable Preachers Does Not Exceed Fingers of Hand; Most of Their Sermons Make Congregators Sleepy; Shaykh Muhammad Sa'd: Preachers Must Enroll in Imams Training Institute Set up by Islamic World League, Same as University Students; Shaykh 'Abd al-Wahhab Hasan: We Need Modern Preacher; For This, New Generation of Imams Mastering Art of Sermon-Making Must Be Trained; Higher Institute Specialized in Graduating Imams Must Be Set up, as Well as Special Sections in Shari'a Colleges for Same Purpose; We Demand Establishment of Islamic Information Bank for Mosque Imams; Imams Must Also Be Supplied With Necessary Information on Current Issues.

"Your imams are your leaders to heaven so beware whom you put in the lead." This is a venerable Hadith quoted from the prophet of God, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, transmitted by Marsad ibn Abi Marsad and Ibn 'Umar, may God be pleased with them, and authenticated by al-Hakim al-Bayhaqi and al-Tabarani. This venerable Hadith sums up in its expressive brevity this week's issue. It is one of the new issues of "awareness" with which we want to (stir) a new movement of intellectual revival and mental enlightenment--a movement through which we seek to contribute to building this homeland. This issue of ours is an important issue because it deals with the Friday sermon which the Muslims amass to hear in a comprehensive Islamic conference every week. But in most cases we find that the sermon is below the level to which it should rise or that it is not compatible with its significance, its role, and its task of uniting with and relating to the "life" of the Muslims. The reason for this is that we have not viewed our imams the way God's prophet instructs us to do in his venerable Hadith and because we have delegated to this serious task many whose knowledge of religious affairs or awareness of the real issues of life does not qualify them to be "our leaders to heaven." This, naturally, does not apply to all imams because there is a number of enlightened imams who perform their task in the best manner, may God reward them for their efforts. To put it more frankly, we believe that the Friday sermon does not, in most cases, serve the desired purpose because the preachers themselves, or most of them, are not up to the level of this great assignment. It is unreasonable for Islam to be encountering this ferocious onslaught by its enemies in the various spheres and for us to go to the Friday prayers only to hear a preacher talking to us about the difference between (al-istinja' and al-istijmar), about Islam's opinion on drinking from the mouth of a flask, of religion's opinion on shaving the mustache and growing the beard or vice versa, as if all the problems of the Muslims and the issues of their life and their reality have ended and as if all that remains to be discussed are these matters. We do not want to underestimate these matters or to slight their weight. We also don't want to

deny the sermon its role in enlightening people with the affairs of religion and in teaching the Muslim what he should follow and should avoid. But we don't want the preachers to confine their interest to these matters. We believe that after explaining to people religion's opinion on such matters and after performing their duty toward these aspects, the preachers must deal with other issues that pertain to the people's life, their future, their history and the problems that pose a threat to the future of Islam and of the Muslims. The issue here is the fact that we have an Islamic conference every week and a most sacred podium of opinion and guidance but we do not benefit from this comprehensive conference or this great podium in the desired broad and comprehensive manner. This is why we are raising this issue today.

To start with, we know that there are among the mosque preachers venerable shaykhs whom God has endowed with abundant faith and broad learning. These are the ones to whom the prophet's description "your imams are your delegations" or "your imams are your guarantors" truly applies. But we say that such eminent shaykhs represent a minority by which we cannot measure. The majority of imams are less knowledgeable in religion, less cognizant of the problems of the hour and less aware of the facts of life around them. Some imams have come to represent a class of semi-educated people who have turned from preachers to "employees" lured at times by the salary and most times by the work which seems easy and by the free housing that is adjacent to the mosque. All the shaykhs, imams and people concerned with this issue we have interviewed agree that if the majority of these preachers are not negligent, then they are incapable of performing the major role which the Muslims expect of them and which is compatible with the wisdom of the Friday sermon as dictated by the orthodox Islam. Some of the people we interviewed have even told us that a number of the preachers make mistakes in using Arabic and some commit grave mistakes in reading the Koran! Groups of them live outside their age and are still the captives of yellow books from which they read every week things that are not relevant to the concerns and challenges facing the Muslim's life at present and that fail to rise to the level of the internal and external intrigues, plots and problems encountering Islam, be they problems that come from the delinquent Muslims themselves or from the infidels, atheists and Crusaders who are the enemies of the religion and of the creed. This [reading from yellow books] is not at all the duty of the Friday preacher.

The Muslims meet on this day from one end of the earth to the other in a great scene of commitment and faith to which there is no equal in the other religion. The meeting of the Muslims in this manner embodies the great symbol on which Islam's concept of "community" is founded. This is why the mosque has continued to be the center of the Islamic community's cohesion and its tangible material structure. The community is incomplete without a mosque that ties its members to each other, in which they meet to pray and exchange opinions and to which they turn to find out their community's developments. Accordingly, the mosque is a religious must, a political must and a social must for every Muslim separately and for the Islamic community as a whole.

This meaning is perhaps underlined to us by the royal directive which His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz issued this week instructing that the kingdom's mosque imams refer to [keep mentioning] al-Aqsa Mosque on every occasion pertaining to his issue during the mosque week organized by the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts annually, to be held [this year] during the coming month of Jumada al-Awwal.

In this sense, mosques have performed their role in the history of Islam. They have been the judiciary courts, the educational institutes and the centers of jihad. They have embodied the spirit of the Islamic communities and have acted as the religious, political and social centers and bastions of these communities. All this has been done from atop the podium where God's prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, stood as a preacher, a teacher, a missionary and a man consecrated to God.

Does the mosque play this role in our life at present?

Regrettably, the answer is "no" because a number of today's preachers are not up to the level of this great role or of this great responsibility. The preacher cannot be this semi-illiterate "civil servant." The preacher must be an advocate, an exhorter, a teacher, a model and an example to be followed. The preacher must be the son [product] of his environment and must interact with it. He must be the product of his reality and must influence it and he must be the product of his moment and must also be its maker. He must discuss the religious and living affairs which face the people. We believe that he must live with and read about the changes in the situation and must study these changes in order to answer the people's perplexed questions and queries to which they can find no answer. Above all this, the true preacher is the one who has the talent of addressing and influencing the people. He is a man whom God has endowed with the quality of the human presence that attracts people and makes them listen and be influenced by what he says.

Between its two folds, the preacher's task combines the task of the clergymen and that of the Muslim man because his task is to enlighten the people as to their religious and secular affairs. He must remind them of God's reward and punishment and he can only do so by his distinctive selection of the topic of the Friday sermon. This selection and the way he deals with the topic depend fundamentally on the preacher's talent, education and ability to feel the people's problems and concerns. They also depend on the extent of the imam's awareness of his society's situation and of the various conditions engulfing it. This is what makes the imam's selection of utmost importance. As piety, virtue and devotion are basic elements which must be present in the Muslim imam, general education and the willingness to keep up with the nation's issues are also a talent that is not possessed by everybody. This talent requires an intrinsic readiness and an intensive preparation and polishing of this readiness. This is what makes us stress that the imam should be up to the level of the responsibility so that his judgement may not ruin the fundamental objectives for which the sermon is established and so that this sermon may be utilized in the best manner. What the various information media need a long time to present, the

mosque's Friday podium can present in a shorter time due to a number of fundamental factors and circumstances, the most important being:

First, the piety and the devotion which characterize the place--the mosque--and which require the Muslim to submit his soul and his mind to what is said in that place.

Second, the least that can be said about the legitimate religious significance characterizing the time--Friday--is that it is one of the successive "holidays" in the life of the Muslims, a day which all Muslims are eager to observe on schedule.

Third, the sacred religious rite coupled with this sermon to the extent that the congregator considers the Friday sermon, as it should be considered, a fundamental part of performing the religious duty. The congregator does not come to the mosque to perform the ordinary prayer but also to hear the sermon as a part complementing this prayer.

Fourth, the status which the preacher enjoys among his congregation. He is their imam and they pray behind him because of the piety, virtue, truthfulness, sincerity, loyalty and knowledge they know he possesses or they expect him to possess. Therefore, his word is more influential and has a stronger impact on the soul of the Muslims.

Fifth, the psychological preparation that precedes this duty, considering that the Muslim prepares for this "spiritual conference." He begins his preparations in the morning, washing, dressing up in his best clothes and showing up in his best appearance, as if he were going to a celebration. This preparation has its effect in bringing about total interaction and fusion between the Muslim and whatever takes place on this occasion.

Sixth, the teachings of the orthodox religion itself require the Muslim to submit his soul, heart, mind and all his senses to what this imam says. Failing any aspect of this complete submission may nullify the prayer and ruin its rewards.

All the abovementioned leads us to two facts:

First, as a means of education and enlightenment, the Friday sermon is considered the absolutely most effective means for this purpose.

Second, in view of its abovementioned sensitivity and significance, this means is, in our opinion, still neglected and has not been utilized in the proper manner. This failure is not confined to our country but includes most of the Islamic countries.

Thus, the sermon is a serious means but it is still a neglected means.

The reason is, as we have pointed out a little earlier, the mosque preachers. Today's preachers fall into one of three categories:

First, conventional preachers who are content with reading old sermons that deal with and talk about obsolete conditions and historical eras.

Second, imitators of some modern preachers who purchase printed sermons and are content to repeat them as they are without any consideration for our special conditions or our distinctive circumstances.

Third, interpreting preachers whose interpretations stops at secondary details and matters that are insignificant in the face of the real problems to which our nation's ethics and faith are exposed. There are numerous other problems with which the Muslims need to be familiarized, especially the political and economic dangers surrounding them from every side. This, however, is not the case of the third category. Some of these preachers are accused of using the sermon for issues that are not within their jurisdiction or of exploiting the podium to voice their rancors, dealing with issues that may seem wrong but without knowing the circumstances dictating them. Instead of using the sermon to express opinions, they use it to create confusion and instead of employing the sermon as an instrument of explanation and clarification, it is turned into an instrument of instigation. The mosque podium is used to express personal positions and individual opinions on issues that, by being raised, cause the Muslims more harm than good. We don't want the mosque podium to turn into an instrument for the expression of personal or tendentious inclinations, thus becoming an instrument for voicing rancors or a means for expressing naive anger and protest or for advocating certain creeds or factions at the expense of others. We demand that the sermon be a means of a comprehensive unity beneficial to the country in particular and to the Muslims generally.

On the basis of this situation, we re-emphasize our firm belief that the sermon is still void of the objective goals for which it must be employed within the limits of the Shari'a dictates. We only exclude from the above, as we have already pointed out, a few imams and preachers who, we fully believe, live with us, feel what we feel and interact with what is going on around us.

Our issue here focuses on demonstrating this question and on initiating a dialogue pertaining to it. The esteemed scholars, intellectuals and people concerned to whom we open the door of participation and expression may be more capable than ourselves in defining the imam's responsibilities, in enabling him to shoulder his task in the best manner and in motivating him to use this means in an ideal way. We are waiting for what these people will say within the bounds of objectivity, sincerity and loyalty to the goal. Let us proceed now to the "samples" which God has given us the success to interview on this issue. The first man we interviewed was Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, the minister of information, who has said that the issue of the imams is a very important issue which touches the essence of society. The imams are considered the custodians of every mosque. The imam is the custodian of the mosque in which he prays. Therefore, when he stands for prayer there is nobody in the congregation whose word rises above that of the imam. The imam is the one who orders the congregation to rise or to

kneel and he is the one who leads them in prayer. This is why it is important to select the imam carefully. He shoulders the responsibility of those who pray behind him. If it is a duty to select an army commander or a school teacher well, then the issue becomes even more important when we come to the selection of the imam because it is an issue that pertains to the faith and that affects the prayers of the congregation.

[Question] Then who is the imam, in your view?

[Dr Yamani] The selection of the imam is of great importance. In addition to his work, conduct and good faith, the imam must be a good speaker and good preacher. He must not be rough and uncouth, thus causing people to shy away from him, must not stammer so that people may understand him and must not be haughty, thus causing people not to understand his objectives. He must obey the instruction which says: Address people by the degree of their intelligence. He must be aware that he is addressing the masses, must select and tackle his topic well and must choose the method and the language with which to approach this topic properly. This is why the imam's importance is great. Therefore, only those who are qualified and wise preachers, who know how to promote virtue and prevent vice and who interact with the events experienced by the nation and with the issues pertaining to the essence of modern life must be allowed to rise to the podium. It is wrong for the imam to be in one valley and the congregation in another. It is also wrong for the imam to embark on a long sermon with no beginning and no end, a sermon in which the issues get entangled and the ideas contradictory, thus causing people to be lost in the sea of what the imam is talking about and even causing some of the congregation to go to sleep. This is especially true of those who improvise their sermons and who fail to prepare written sermons. This is a very important point because some people are not qualified to improvise. Such people should not go on talking until they annoy the congregation and cause them to turn a deaf ear to the sermon and ignore its lesson. The tradition says: "Be brief because there are weak and the infirm among them [congregation]." I believe that it is our duty to prepare our mosque imams in a manner compatible with the Islamic Shari'a but founded on modern bases. Moreover, no imam who cannot recite the Koran correctly may be allowed to lead the people in the Friday prayers. We have seen some imams, may God mend their ways, committing grave mistakes in reciting the Koran. This is unacceptable. Reciting the Koran correctly is one of the conditions for the prayers to be complete. Regrettably, some of the imams relish this issue [situation] and are no longer interested in even educating themselves. No man should depend on his diploma just because he is a university graduate. Rather, he must devote basic attention to reading the venerable Koran.

[Question] Do you think an institute should be established to graduate imams?

[Dr Yamani] I see nothing to prevent thinking of setting up such a specialized institute to graduate imams, especially in a country like the kingdom, the land of the revelation and the site of the two holy mosques, considering that the world views us in a special way and aspires to benefit

from us. This is why we should devote attention to this issue and be a model in this regard.

[Question] The problem is also that these preachers seem to be separated from the reality in their sermons.

[Dr Yamani] It is regrettable that some imams resort to old sermons and read them to the people without any consideration for the element of time or for the nature of the age. They speak of concepts that have become obsolete or issues that are no longer of interest to the people. This indicates that the preacher does not want to exert any effort in preparing his sermon even though his duty requires him to keep thinking all week long of the topic which he will discuss, the proof he will use, the method with which he will tackle the subject and the language which he will use so that the sermon may be complete. However, we must say a true word, namely that many of our mosques abound with young men who are considered a source of pride in the preachers and the imams.

[Question] What are the issues which you think the Friday preacher should tackle in his sermon?

[Dr Yamani] There are fundamental issues that must be included in the sermon and there are Shari'a issues that must be observed. But there are issues that touch the people's life that must be dealt with. The presence and congregation of people in the mosque on Friday is a good occasion to preach them on the one hand and to draw their attention to the various social dangers on the other hand.

The modern issues which people face nowadays require the imams to interact with these issues in a manner that makes it possible for the imams to familiarize people with Islam's opinion on such issues or to lead people toward virtue and away from vice. Moreover, today's concepts are different from yesterday's. Infidelity, for example, which used to be defined as the worship of idols or the infidelity of al-Jahmiyah and al-Ma'talah [tribes?] has turned nowadays into new forms of infidelity in the guise of economic, social and cultural systems that must be confronted and with which the people must be familiarized. Therefore, what I want to say is that in addition to the necessary preservation of the rules, components and dictates of the sermon, the sermon can deal with the issues that concern the Muslims in their modern society.

[Question] In your capacity as an information man, don't you consider the Friday preacher, in a sense, an information man?

[Dr Yamani] The Friday sermon is a form of information, even though the other information media, such as radio and television, are more widespread. But insofar as effectiveness is concerned, the Friday sermon is more effective because people listen to the preacher with a spirit different from that with which they listen to the announcer by virtue of the fact that Muslims come to the imam with a spirit of submission and humility and with the readiness to respond to every thing he says.

But when they listen to the information media, there is no doubt that they have less confidence in these media than they have in their imam and preacher. This is why the preacher is more effective and influential even though the information media are more widespread.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Khayyat, an esteemed scholar and the imam and preacher of the Holy Mosque in Mecca, has told us that the Friday sermon is supposed to deal as much as possible with the week's problems, provided that it doesn't swerve from what the jurists have stipulated, namely that it contain thanks to God, prayers and peace upon His prophet, fear of God and reading a verse from the Koran. We wish the preacher would deal with the problems of the Islamic world, such as the problem of the Jews and their seizure of Jerusalem, the invasion of Lebanon, the evil harbored for the Muslims on every side and in every way and the use of force to implement the Jewish Zionist scheme.

There is an important thing that the imams must avoid, namely prolong the sermon because the congregators, most of whom are people who have necessary duties to attend to, are eager to attend the Friday prayers because of their venerable and honorable place and to hear the sermon. It is of the Sunna that the sermon be short so that the audience may benefit from it and so that they may emerge from it with something on which to depend in their practical life.

Shaykh 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Aqla, the supervisor of maintenance work at the General Directorate for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques and the deputy chairman for religious affairs, explains the issue by stating that the Friday sermon was prescribed for various reasons, including the fact that Friday is a Muslim holiday, that the Muslims gather on this day to listen to the sermon, to be guided and to be reminded of God's instructions and prohibitions. The sermon is also intended to urge the Muslims to adhere to the teachings of their religion and to check on each other's welfare. In the early era of Islam, Muslims used to look for each other on the Friday gathering and to look out for anybody who was absent and did not attend the prayers for fear he might be sick or disabled for one reason or another so that they may perform toward him the duty that a Muslim performs toward a brother Muslim.

[Question] If the Friday sermon was prescribed for these great objectives, then what is to be said of those who cannot perform this role?

[Al-'Aqla] The inability of some imams, may God lead them to the right path, to deliver the sermon in classical Arabic or their committing mistakes is due to a number of reasons, including:

1. The failure to give the imam and the mu'azzin enough to meet his living needs and the living needs of his dependents so that he may devote his time to the imamship and to preaching and guidance.
2. The imams of most of the mosques are old venerable men who gained a measure of religious education at the mosques and in the old schools which used to be called al-katatib.

Whatever they do is done with goodwill and to the limit of their ability, and they are thanked for it.

[Question] And what is required?

[Al-'Aqla] The authorities responsible for the imams and the mu'azzins must adopt the proper steps to guarantee that they are trained educationally to be able to devote their efforts to familiarizing themselves and studying the sermons that they are going to deliver to the masses on Friday. This training comes through organizing educational training courses in which the imams and mu'azzins receive lessons that develop their religious knowledge and their education. I want to point out here that educationally-qualified university professors and high and junior high school teachers refrain fully from performing the duties of imams and preachers. This is an undesirable negative attitude on their part.

It is in the general interest of the Muslims in their mosques and their clubs for these professors and teachers to perform a role in mosque sermons, preaching and guidance so that they may benefit others and themselves. There is no doubt that such efforts on their part will attract to the mosques those who stay away from them. When some of those who stay away from the mosques are asked about their reason for failing to attend the Friday congregation and prayers, they answer that the imam can neither preach nor make sermons. This is not what the Shari'a calls for. What the Shari'a seeks, according to the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, is for those who are best-versed in the Koran to lead the congregation in prayers. Moreover, duty requires such people to frequent the mosques, to fill them with preaching and guidance and to deal with the problems facing the Muslims in their own way to make the people understand their religious affairs and to convey this religion to the people's hearts and minds--problems such as the issue of al-Aqsa Mosque, the struggle in Afghanistan, and the persecution of the Islamic minorities in many parts of the world. These people must also explain to the persecuted in their religion and their Islam that what has afflicted them is a test and trial and that, as God, may He be praised, says: "The reward goes to the pious."

We implore God, may He be praised, to guide the officials in charge of the mosques to all that is beneficial. We also implore Him to give the ulema and the educated success in taking into consideration what He demands of them in terms of good preaching, guidance and of working hard and exerting serious efforts in preaching the call and making sermons in all the mosques of our beloved kingdom so that they may deal with the problems of the age and of the youth, as we have already pointed out, with the prophet's cure. The pure Sunna has left nothing befitting our religion and our world which it has not explained and clarified. It has pointed out the ailment and prescribed the cure.

[Question] What is the result of the refrainment of these educationally-qualified people from leading the prayers and making the sermons at the mosques?

[Al-'Aqla] The result is that we see many foreigners occupying the position of imams and preachers and we see others who have used the podium as a political ladder. This should not be.

To protect the mosques and the Muslims, every foreigner who does not meet the requirements of suitability, sound knowledge and faith, and goodwill and good principle must be kept away from the mosque, and God's peace and prayers be upon our master Muhammad.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Umar al-Rubay'an, the chairman of the Organizations to Promote Virtue and Prevent Vice in al-Qasim, has summed up the issue by saying: At present, the sermons are similar because they are copied from one book that details the Friday sermons for the entire year. Sermons are also copied from other books, such as Al-Hikmah al-Balighah [Profound Wisdom] by Husayn ibn 'Abdallah al-Makhdub and the book Al-Du' Al-Lami' [Bright Light] by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Salih al-'Uthaymayn, the preacher of the main mosque in the city of 'Unayzah.

The Friday sermons must deal with the social issues that crop up and must find the solutions for them. But we hear nothing of the sort because of the weakness of the preachers on the one hand and, on the other hand, because of their limited education and their inexperience.

[Question] And the solution?

[Al-Rubay'an] The Sha'i'a College must organize training courses for the mosque preachers to train them on sermon delivery and on sermons that deal with the modern social problems.

Shaykh Salih ibn Sa'd al-Luhaydan, the adviser at the Ministry of Justice, has summed up the problem in a decisive sentence when he said that today's preachers are not qualified to discuss the Muslims' issues and to formulate solutions for them. As to why the sermons fail to deal with the Muslims' modern issues, this is due to the quality and the Shari'a background of the preacher. The prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, used to preach according to the occasion, and so did the four caliphs [immediately succeeding him]. Repetition of the old sermons with the change of times is not useful. What can make up for this, if the old is inevitable, is for man to be aware of his contemporary reality in light of the modern problems. The preacher often has the inclination to sermonize. This is good but the situation of the people has changed culturally and educationally. This is why the approach of the preacher must also change. My advice to the preachers is that each of them select a single topic for each sermon and present this topic in a rational, frank and strong style. If he does so, with God's prophet and his companions as his guide, he will be qualified not only to project the issues but also to find solutions for them.

[Question] What about those who read to us from the old books?

[Al-Luhaydan] This is what I warn against. Times have changed and Islam is being fought at all levels. The preachers must be aware of this reality so

that they may not resort to copying from the old books which people have memorized by heart and which contain exaggerations and weaknesses that call for abandoning such books immediately.

[Question] The problem is not in the preacher alone nor in the sermon alone but in both of them.

[Al-Luhaydan] The Friday sermon must be comprehensive and prohibitive [mani'ah] in which a little does away with a lot. It is conditional that it bring up an issue derived from the real situation of the Muslims and deal with its roots because the corruption and deviation appearing in the nation are not a disease but the symptoms of a disease. This is why the prophet, may God's peace be upon him, used to begin by dealing with the roots before dealing with the branches. Moreover, the sermon must be profound and simple so that it may influence the listener and so that the Muslim may be attached to it.

Such a sermon needs an educated, qualified and trained preacher who is confident of himself, composed and fit to be a model with his conduct and his intellect.

This concept of preparing and training the preacher is also advocated by Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Sulayman ibn 'Ubayd, the deputy general chairman of the Mecca Mosque affairs. In his view, the preacher is a man with the proper religious qualifications, a man who meets the Shari'a requirements, one who reads perfectly well without mistake or error and a man who knows the Koran by heart. Whoever cannot meet these qualifications must enroll in a course on imamship so that he may be familiarized with its requirements and duties and learn how to read without any mistakes.

[Question] What about the sermon itself?

['Ubayd] The sermon must deal with one of the problems of the age [our time] and must remind the Muslim of what he should follow in order for him to be a strong factor in his religion and among his brothers.

We conclude this group of opinions with that of Dr 'Ali 'Abbas al-Hakami who also believes that our present-day preachers are not up to the required level and are not qualified to perform this duty because of the low level of their Islamic education and their poor Arabic which prevent them from coming up with their own sermons and motivate them to repeat old sermons. Even when it comes to the old sermons, we find that they cannot choose well.

[Question] How do we correct the situation?

[Al-Hakami] The people in charge, especially the officials of the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts, must be careful in selecting the imams so that they may have a good level of Islamic education and Arabic. We wish the officials would focus on the graduates of the Shari'a and Theology College.

[Question] What about the already existing imams?

[Al-Hakami] Training courses can be organized for them by such colleges. As for the future, no preacher should be appointed unless he is qualified religiously, he masters the language, knows as much as possible of the Koran by heart and, in most cases, a graduate of the Shari'a and Theology College.

[Question] But these colleges cannot meet all our needs of imams and preachers?

[Al-Hakami] It is not essential that the imam be an appointed [ratiban] imam. The graduates of these colleges can cooperate with the imam in making the sermon. Judges and university professors can also undertake the task of preaching, at least in their quarters. The best solution to develop the imams still lies in holding training courses for them.

The preacher must be aware of his role and must deal with his subject matter wisely and with gentle exhortation. He must not provoke the people's feelings or cause people to shy away from him. The sermon must be of medium length, neither short nor long. There remains the question of the preacher himself who must be a model in his learning, behavior and his command of jurisprudence and of the basics of the language. I once heard a friend say that an ignorant imam stood to deliver a sermon and said:

I care not, if I kill a Muslim, on which side I die for God. [Loose translation of verse]

What is regrettable is that this imam misread "I am killed," changing it to "I kill" and thus changing the meaning of the verse entirely. [Verse should read: "I care not, if I am killed a Muslim, on which side I die for God."]

Proceeding to another group of educated ulema, we first encounter the brief opinion of Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Shahwan who has said that the problem starts and ends with defining the prerequisites of a preacher, namely the following three prerequisites: That he be a university graduate, that he be able to select meaningful topics and that he be aware of the issues of the age [time].

Muhammad Safwat al-Saqqā, the assistant secretary general of the Islamic World League, demands a complete reevaluation of all the mosque imams so that those unfit among them may be replaced by people meeting the required conditions.

The problem, he adds, is embodied in this group which performs the preacher's task as a profession and not as a message. These people copy a number of sermons that are enough for a long number of months to come without consideration for the needs of the Muslims and the issues of their life. Though this is the evident situation, we must not forget that there are venerable imams such as Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Baz, Shaykh 'Abdallah Khayyat, Shaykh

Muhammad al-Sabil, Shaykh Muhammad al-Khulayfi, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Salih, Muhammad 'Alawi Malik and others.

[Question] Is the League playing any role in solving this problem?

[Answer] Recently, the Islamic World League has opened a specialized institute for training imams, preachers and missionaries [du'ah] throughout the Islamic world. The institute is headquartered in the venerated Mecca. The institute is currently training a large number of enrolled students in this sphere. This is in addition to a number of training courses which the League has organized in various Islamic locations.

The concept of educational courses is also the concept advocated by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Isma'il Daghistani, member of the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts' Committee for Studying the Program to Educate Mosque Imams.

The Ministry, in cooperation with the Imam Muhammad ibn Sa'ud Islamic University, conducted in Abha an educational course for the preachers and imams in the southern province from 18/5 to 13/6/1402 of the Hegira.

[Question] In your capacity as a member of the education program, what did you conclude from this course?

[Daghistani] It is noticed that the course has focused on just the Islamic sciences. I believe that with the emphasis on enriching the offered educational programs with extensive subject matter on comprehensive Islamic education, the programs must contain other educational materials offered in a simplified and concentrated manner to explain some rudimentary elements of sciences, sociology, economics, politics and literature, for example. We will thus be working to broaden the horizon of the students and to encourage them to keep up pace with the modern age and will be using the modern human sciences to serve Islam and the Muslims and to enhance their capability to influence people and to guide them in a manner compatible with the civilizational development being experienced by our country.

[Question] The cooperation of Imam Muhammad ibn Sa'ud Islamic University with the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts in the programs to educate the mosque imams is a positive step. But why doesn't the ministry cooperate with the other universities or why don't the other universities cooperate with the ministry? I don't know on which side to put the blame.

[Answer] Despite the importance of focusing on the programs or courses for educating mosque imams and preachers, I believe that the emphasis on these educational courses must be coupled with streamlining the process of selecting and appointing preachers, imams and mu'azzins in the kingdom so that they may be subjected to set requirements demanding a good level of comprehensive Islamic education, in addition to personal interviews that focus on the candidates' ability to deal well with people and on their flexibility. This is an important and vital thing which I think we are doing at present and which will undoubtedly lead to a negative [presumably meaning positive] result.

[Question] We want a comprehensive sermon that sharpens the intellect and lights the way for the Muslims--a sermon that deals with the scientific and political issues of the age from an Islamic premise that aims at underlining the comprehensive nature of Islam, its ability to keep up pace with the age and its suitability for all times and places and that seeks to implant the Muslim's confidence in himself in a convincing and attractive scientific manner. Religion is advice and not threats and intimidation. We are in dire need of binding our youth to the mosque out of love and desire and not just for the sake of performing a duty.

Why doesn't the activity of the imams extend to holding intellectual symposiums at the mosques? Where are the libraries in our mosques?

In Islam, the mosque is a complete school that needs planning and preparation. We have prepared the mosques and spread them everywhere but have we thought of a plan to prepare a generation of more modern preachers who better understand and participate in the issues of the hour?

[Answer] This is an urgent issue. I hope that AL-YAMAMAH will follow up on it with utter seriousness and determination until we reach a certain visualization embraced by the authorities concerned and embraced by the citizen enthusiastic for his religion and concerned for the youth of this dear country. Our youth are our future wealth and building this wealth on sound Islamic educational foundations is a necessary and urgent demand.

We then met with a group of mosque imams, the people against whom, or against most of whom, accusations are levelled in this issue by AL-YAMAMAH in its capacity as one of the podiums of opinion and by a number of shaykhs and pious people we have met.

Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Salih al-Hammad, who is an imam and a preacher as well as director of the religious trusts in al-Qasim, says that the preachers are appointed officially by the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts after their educational qualifications and their preaching capability are verified.

The preacher is the one who selects the [topic of the] Friday sermon. At times, a certain sermon is distributed to be used as an aid. The topics of the sermons are controlled by a branch of the ministry. Moreover, sermon books have been supplied to all to be used as an aid. So how can it be said that our preachers are not qualified for this work?

A preacher in Riyadh who refused to disclose his name has said: I faced numerous difficulties that have driven me away from preaching because of the topics I dealt with in my sermons. I found myself faced with one of two things: Either tell the truth and insist on discussing the problems and the moral corruption from which the society is suffering or keep quiet and resort to the old books which are not at all suitable for the issues of the real situation we live.

Generally, it can be said that the existing preachers can be listed under two categories: a minority with very high qualifications and a majority that is not at all good for this vocation.

Shaykh 'Abd al-Qadir 'Atiyah has said that the level to which the Friday sermon has declined makes it a must that we establish an institute to train imams and preachers. The state which has spent generously on everything will not hold back on this important aspect of the Muslims' life.

Shaykh Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir Mu'abba believes that the problem is due to the increasing number of mosques in comparison to the number of preachers. This aspect has reached the point where a number of mosques are looking for imams. Recently, foreign experience has been employed, even though it is not suitable. The preacher's task is a delicate task because the preacher must participate in whatever pertains to the people's life. For example, 'UKAZ has published an article saying that the nature of the terrain in Dhumar is similar to that of the terrain in Jiddah and the western coast and that the entire area is exposed to earthquakes. The press article spread panic among the people. So I had to reply to this sensational mistake and to calm the fears of the congregation. This, in my opinion, is the preacher's task. He must be aware of the living conditions around him.

Shaykh Jamil 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Ujayb has added that the sermons delivered at present are generally devoid of meaning and fail to deal with problems of any kind even though our youth now need guidance and direction more than ever before.

This is why his eminence, like a number of others speaking on this issue, demands the establishment of a specialized institute to train imams and preachers similar to the Koran memorization schools. The Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts must also pay attention to the conditions of this group of people by increasing the recompense they collect so that the activity may be more definite and binding.

Muhammad Hash al-'Ayyadi has said that the number of capable and proficient preachers in our mosques does not exceed the fingers of a hand and that the overwhelming majority of them is unfit. The sermons of these people induce the congregation to sleep instead of alerting them and provoking their intellect.

Shaykh Muhammad Sa'd Mu'abba has said that there are capable preachers from Egypt and Syria but they know nothing about the real situation of the Saudi family. This is why we need preachers who know the problems of our life and who discuss with us the issues of Islam, such as the issue of Jerusalem and the issue of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. Shaykh Muhammad Sa'd demands that the largest number possible of mosque imams and preachers be enrolled in the Imams Training Institute established by the Islamic World League, provided that the enrollment be by correspondence so that the institute's curricula may be supplied to them and then an examination date set for them. He has also demanded that every preacher be supplied with a house adjacent to the mosque where he leads the people in prayer.

Concluding all these opinions, Shaykh 'Abd al-Wahhab Hasan has said that we need a modern preacher and that such a preacher cannot be created unless we rely on a totally new generation of imams who are trained in the art of delivery and the method of sermon-making.

We need large numbers of such imams to convert more people to Islam. This is a religious and a historical responsibility simultaneously. These are the opinions that sum up the issue of the Friday sermon and of the preachers in our mosques. It is, in our view, an important issue because it contains religious, social and intellectual dimensions.

Moreover, it is one of the extremely urgent awareness issues in this historic phase of our life. We, of course, do not have the solution to this problem. Even if we did, we could not implement it.

We can only make a serious presentation and insist on the values we believe in (by knocking heads), knowing that this determination will ultimately achieve its objective one day. Quantitative accumulation creates, by necessity, qualitative change, as is well known in the political argument and dialectic laws.

On this premise, we demand that the door of dialogue be opened to this issue and problem.

Until this dialogue begins, we will present here a number of opinions, some of which have been implemented and some not. We will present them all the same because even the part implemented has not been implemented fully or effectively. These proposals are:

First, establish a specialized higher institute to graduate preachers and imams. Strict standards must be applied in selecting those who are to enroll in this institute because the most important thing that they must possess is the talent and the sublime human feeling.

Second, establish special branches in the Shari'a colleges spread throughout the country for the same purpose or select any educational formula, such as training courses or employing the help of the universities, to prepare these preachers.

Third, establish a special authority within the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts to supply the preachers with the necessary facts and information, and constantly, on all the urgent issues that they choose [to discuss in their Friday sermons].

Fourth, establish an Islamic data bank for the mosque imams to provide them with all the Islamic information pertaining to the topic of the Friday sermon and to all issues. The Higher Islamic Affairs Council in Egypt has already begun implementing this idea.

What then?

We have opened the door.

As for you, you must think of this issue seriously.

The necessary visualizations must be developed in order to overcome the negative aspects and to enhance the positive aspects.

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VIEWS, CONCERNS OF STUDENTS STUDYING OVERSEAS EXAMINED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic no 730, 15-21 Dec 82 pp 3-7

[Text] This issue poses some critical questions, as some people believe. But we are not afraid of publishing these questions and their answers, because there is simply nothing to fear or hide. The key to the Saudi policy, its development and consistency, is that this policy represents on the local, Arabic, Islamic and international levels an exemplary model of moderation, wisdom, honest statements and action. The questions were posed by the students studying overseas in open session held in Arizona, Los Angeles, Indiana and Michigan. The questions and debates centered on their major concern, their beloved country. They have painfully endured separation from their native land in order to return equipped with knowledge to serve their dear country, its people, and its leaders.

The atmosphere in which the dialogue took place was friendly and congenial. We shall present here "some" of the questions posed because they are important, profound, and no doubt occur to many young men in the U. S. with whom we have not had the opportunity to meet. It is our belief that every one is entitled to know the answers to these questions in order to avoid confusion. The answers given here are basically provided by the two guest speakers of the session during their visit to the U. S., Dr. 'Abdallah Manna', the editor in chief of the magazine IQRA'A and Dr. Fahd al-'Urabi al-Harithi, a professor on the Faculty of Arts, King Saud University, and supervisor general of this magazine. Their answers were spontaneous and without preparation. Therefore, while they are honest and simple, they lack coherence, which may cause some confusion. For this reason we have re-written the answers, as well as the questions, to give them a sense of coherence and uniformity. Editing both questions and answers reflects, not only our deep appreciation of their importance, but also our awareness of the sensitivities of the issues raised in both questions and answers which touch upon many people. In fact, these questions and answers have brought into focus many important national issues.

This introduction may not be adequate enough to justify the publication of the edited questions and answers, therefore we find it necessary to point out a number of important facts: Firstly we consider the questions posed by those young men, in their candid discussions, an open letter that all

educated Saudis should read, because these questions reflect the interests of our enthusiastic young men who are eager to learn. We believe that these young men should be given correct answers to their puzzling questions. Living away from their homeland intensifies the unrest in their souls. They are further confused by following models, which are essentially wrong because they are unsuitable for the make-up of their country or its moral, social, and religious roles. The answers to these questions are, in our opinion, the responsibility of the educated and the intellectuals in the country. They have to provide answers and build bridges of knowledge, trust, and communication with these young men in order to illuminate their way and eliminate their doubtful thoughts and beliefs, especially when these young men are much envied. The role of intellectuals in this respect can be realized through different means despite the remoteness of their residence overseas. They are in dire need of such communication and have persistently demanded of the intellectuals to reflect on the problems that confront them in their foreign places. Secondly, the questions raised in these sessions may also, as stated earlier, occur to our students who study in countries other than the U. S.. Publishing the answers to these questions in a magazine like ours may provide new insights and proper concepts to those who did not participate in these sessions held in the U. S.. Thirdly, the questions of the participants centered mainly as we shall see, on the problems of the press and of publication. This was perhaps because the two guest speakers, Dr. Manna' and Dr. Harithi, are distinguished figures in the mass media. However, many questions were raised about the internal problems of their country and the problems confronting Arab and Muslim nations. Several questions touched upon personal matters pertinent to the recipients of scholarships, such as medical expenses. Serious questions were raised about planning in Saudi Arabia, the war between Iraq and Iran, Arab Nationalism, the Islamic struggle, the Lebanese crisis, the Palestinian tragedy, the situation of Muslims after the events of Hamah in Syria, and financial aid to poor countries, the bulk of which ends up in the wrong hands. In other words the diverse questions of these young men covered the widest political and intellectual issues that could be discussed in such sessions. Fourthly, the questions raised in these sessions were characterized with candor or, if you will, with aggressiveness. There is nothing wrong with that as long as the distinction is clear in mind between freedom and anarchy, courage and rashness, candor and impertinence, honest arguments seeking truth and malicious disputes.

THE PRESS IS GUILTY

The students accused the Saudi press of the following: total dependence on foreign press agencies, as it publishes whatever these agencies provide without modification or editing. All Saudi newspapers seem to be a carbon copy of each other. Reading any of them is just like reading all of them. Also the Saudi newspaper has undeveloped techniques or treatment of subjects.

Response to abovementioned comments --Presenting news taken from foreign agencies without alteration should be a credit to the Saudi Press, not a drawback. The integrity and objectivity of the profession require the

journalist to be honest and accurate in handling his material. The staff in charge is, of course, aware that some of this news is inaccurate, some is sugar-coated, and some serves goals conflicting with our national interests. In a situation such as this the editor or the editor in chief does modify, omit, or even drop the entire news item. We do not want to overrate the Saudi journalists and claim that they all have such awareness and alertness. However, we would like to stress that the experienced and reputed Saudi journalists are conscious of the sensitivity and the heavy responsibility of their profession. Accusing our press of being weak, without putting the history of this press in proper perspective is a gross injustice to the Saudi press. If we examine the history of this press we see that at the beginning it was concerned with essays and literature. After a while its scope widened and it focused on news, comments, and editorials.

It is true that the Saudi newspapers used to be, but no longer are, a carbon copy of each other. They all used to publish the same radio bulletins. But today our newspapers get their news from four international news agencies in addition to the Saudi News Agency, and they have a number of reporters in the main capitals of the world. This simply means that our press is steadily progressing and that it is on the right track. However, it is a long way to reach the ideal standard of a modern press, but a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. We feel we have already taken many steps.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Many questions were raised about the freedom of the press in the Kingdom and the ways in which the press exercises this freedom.

Response--Before we answer this question we have to define the kind of freedom we are talking about. We believe that the freedom, in the context we are dealing with, should end with the freedom of others begins, it is the freedom of responsibility. Freedom which equates with anarchy and irresponsibility should be resisted and taken away. Freedom is not just a "word," it is a "meaning" that should be placed in the proper framework. This framework is the boundaries which the individual should observe and the protection they provide to our social, cultural, and moral life. Stepping over those boundaries is a challenge to this life and may cause harm to the community at large. Let me ask you a question. Does the press in the third world enjoy the kind of freedom you have in mind when you talk about the Saudi press and of which you take the American press as an example? We are aware that you always compare the freedom of the American press with that of the Kingdom. You should realize that the religious, social, cultural, and moral life of the Kingdom differs from that of the U. S. and Europe. Also the third world understanding of freedom and its ability to practice it are different from those of the U. S. and Europe. Therefore, the comparison is fallacious. In my view, the proper and logical way to evaluate the freedom of the press in Saudi Arabia is to compare it to its counterpart in the developing countries whose rapid pace towards modernization has entailed some risks and necessitated some restrictions on their communities,

because these communities have not yet reached a state of balanced judgment and maturity. Some developing countries boast about their multiple party regime, and their parliamentary and democratic practices, while in reality the press in those countries does not enjoy any freedom at all. As you are aware, many countries claim to have freedom and various channels to express personal opinions. But when you look deep into these systems, you find that they only issue shallow statements to fool the people, and that there is no freedom or free press. Look carefully around you. I do not have to mention any names, but it is a pattern in all the third world countries. If you examine the Saudi press from this perspective, you will find that it enjoys a great deal of freedom of expression. Writers can move within the existing framework without violating state policy, our religious and moral life, or the traditions of the country. The Kingdom enjoys a special religious status because it is the center of Islamic leadership. This role places on our shoulders the responsibility of preserving the values that might be marred by certain information such as that pertaining to sexual [Pornographic] literature. The Kingdom also has a political role to play. It endeavors to unify the Arab nations. This sincere effort which we exert for the sake of our Arab brothers sometimes compels us not to countenance certain bad regimes. When we are obliged to choose between national and Arab interests and freedom of expression of the press, we prefer the former, of course. Furthermore, because the Kingdom is now in the process of developing, it has to act discreetly and moderately in order not to jeopardize its development. If we add to all the things mentioned above the fact that the illiteracy rate is about 80 percent, it might be appropriate not to have absolute freedom as known in the West. Because of these Islamic, Arabic, national, and cultural considerations, we believe that the freedom of the Saudi press should be practiced with great sensitivity. It should be noted, however, that the Saudi press discusses many national and foreign issues with a reasonable degree of freedom, and that it enjoys more freedom than any press in the third world could hope to have.

PRESS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Question--Do you receive instruction from the state regarding what you should or should not publish?

Answer--Yes, we receive instructions approximately every two weeks with respect to two issues. The first issue is related to matters of religion and ethics. The country as well as its leadership will not accept the publication of any material that conflicts in any way with religious principles or ethical values. The second issue is pertinent to the preservation of the Kingdom's relations with other Arab nations. Some Arab leaders may mistakenly consider the viewpoint published by the press to be that of the state. This situation can be further complicated when the press takes a stand, similar to that of the state, toward a certain regime. Because of this apparent sensitivity we receive instructions to soften our attack on a certain regime. But more importantly the state wants the press

to have an elevated [responsible] attitude and to transcend the scornful language which other countries fall into and does not serve Arab solidarity, but instead escalates and deepens the differences.

Question--You talked about the freedom, which the Saudi press enjoys compared to its counterparts in the third world countries. Why does not the Saudi press write about the shameful conduct of some Saudis in the Kingdom and abroad?

Answer--The Saudi press is not interested in the Saudis' shameful actions because this press is not concerned with pursuing scandals. Neither we nor the society or the state will tolerate having this kind of cheap press. As you know the purpose of this kind of press in other countries, especially Western countries such as the U. S., is blackmail and threat. But the Saudi press is honest, dignified, and responsible. Its objective is to point out erroneous views and harmful matters to the society. Personal shameful behaviour is not our concern. It is the concern of the security personnel and they untiringly handle this matter in their own way.

Question--Are the materials censored before publication in the Kingdom?

Answer--No, there is no censorship on the Saudi press.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESS AND AUTHORITIES

Question--What is the nature of your relations with the authorities?

Answer--The press in some Arab countries publishes only what the ruling regime releases, but in the Kingdom the situation is vastly different. The press reports the news on its own initiative and the authorities read the published material at the same time the people do. The authorities may have some suggestions to make or may criticize certain views for their inaccuracy. Nevertheless, the Saudi press enjoys much more freedom than the press of many other Arab countries.

Question--You have mentioned the freedom which the press has, but you also pointed to moral and political obligations. How can a writer be free and committed at the same time?

Answer--We have defined earlier the kind of freedom we like our press to have and we would like now to make a clearer distinction between a commitment to individual opinion and external compulsion. We do not receive orders, but rather instructions within the framework referred to above. Our only obligation is to the spiritual, moral, and psychological aspects of the Saudis' life. Intellectuals have to observe the moral, cultural, and religious characteristics of their society, otherwise they would be irresponsible thinkers with no firm principles to which to adhere. Commitment to certain principles does not mean fetters to the writers' freedom. To the contrary, it represents the grounds for expressing the spirit of his society.

WRITERS AND INTELLECTUAL ATMOSPHERE

Question--Does this mean that Saudi intellectuals have found an appropriate atmosphere in which to realize their ambitions? Are you satisfied with the quality of the Saudi writers' output?

Answer--The Saudi writer has not yet achieved the level of excellence we wish for him due to the deeply rooted weaknesses of cultural elements in the country. The development of these cultural elements will no doubt enrich the writer's imagination, which will in turn create a productive cultural atmosphere.

This productive cultural atmosphere, which exists in other countries like Egypt, for instance, is lacking in Saudi Arabia. We do not have theaters or art exhibitions, and the publishing industry is very limited, but due to many factors involved I have neither the time or the space to deal with these questions in this context. The inability of the Saudi writer to express his thoughts may be attributed to the strict and conservative methods of upbringing in schools and homes. When the Saudi grows up, he endeavors to develop his knowledge and sharpen his talents, but his extreme conservative environment of his childhood does not provide much to draw upon.

ISLAMIC PRESS

Question--The space given to Islamic topics in Al-Yamamah under the title of "In the Presence of Faith" is only two pages long. We find this to be unworthy of a major magazine issued in a country which has a leading role to play in the dissemination of Islam. We would like Al-Yamamah to be an Islamic magazine from cover to cover. What are your views on this matter?

Answer--The Saudi press functions within an Islamic framework. Any Saudi newspaper or magazine is in spirit an Islamic publication from beginning to end, and Al-Yamamah, revolves in that orbit. The two pages to which you refer are mainly devoted to some Koranic verses, some noble traditions, and exemplary Islamic experiences. We are committed to Islamic principles and morals on every page of the magazine because we look at Islam not only as a religion but also as a way of life. Therefore, we view our writing on matters that concern the Muslim people and which require total adherence to Islam be that politics, economics, or cultural. We maintain the same attitude towards our local social problems which concern our Muslim community. We believe that the press should discuss in detail all the worries of our society even if they have little or nothing to do with purely religious or moral issues. We also believe that the political section in the magazine that deals with Arabic and international issues is vital for a better Muslim understanding of what surrounds them and may, in the future, affect them and their Islamic community and its relations with other nations. In summary, we do believe that our press is Islamic in spirit and practice and that its goal is to serve the Muslims inside and outside the Kingdom. We, of course, fully realize that our press is not totally devoted to and specialized in religious issues. Nevertheless we do not deny the singular role which

religiously oriented magazines play in broadening and deepening the people's knowledge of Islam and constantly remind them of the principles, morals, and instructions of their religion.

We would like to reiterate that these valuable specialized magazines should not overshadow the importance of secular magazines which endeavor to make the Muslims aware of local and international problems.

SCIENTIFIC PLANNING

Question--We feel that the Kingdom lacks scientific planning for the goals it hopes to achieve or at best the plans are not properly carried out. Can you comment on that?

Answer--During the development stage in any nation, modern or ancient, mistakes are most likely to occur. Our major problem, as in all countries of the third world, is lack of education. Education will contribute to the minimization of these mistakes. Despite the efforts exerted to develop cultural and educational programs, the percentage of illiteracy in the Kingdom is high. This is a natural situation because our cultural awakening has just started. It is the responsibility of your generation and the coming generations too to rid our society of these mistakes. In fact this is precisely the reason why your country sends you abroad...to learn and then return to your country to correct the mistakes, or the fumbling trials as you like to call these mistakes.

ARABISM

Question--Why do we dwell in our press on the issue of Arabism instead of giving all our attention to the Islamic world which has a great interest in the issues of Jerusalem and Palestine?

Answer--There are three religions in the Arab world: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the issue of religion has been the center of our concern. Ought we fight the Israelis [we being] as Arabs, as Muslims, or as both. Most of us favor the idea that we should dissociate religion from our conflict with Israel in order not to provoke the Christian world. In fact, we should build up international pressure against Israel and neutralize the Christian world. We have repeatedly declared that we are not against Judaism, but against Zionism, which is a racial-political movement.

It should be noted that when we write in our press about Arabism, we are in fact writing about Islam. Arabism cannot be dissociated from Islam or vice versa. Islam is not only a religion of the Arabs, but it also represents their history and culture. We never intended by writing about Arabism to revive and jingle or political motto that might offend Islamic countries.

Question--What are your views regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war and the dangerous impact it might have on the Gulf area, in particular, and the Arab nation in general?

Answer--When the Iranian Revolution began, it gained the support of many Arab countries for several reasons: 1) The Shah's support of Israel; 2) The Shah's violation of human rights and the torturing of his people; and 3) The Revolution represented some Islamic hopes, but it later showed that though Khomeyni might be a knowledgeable scholar in the Shi'ite sect, he is definitely a stupid, ignorant politician, to say the least.

Khomeyni has seriously harmed the Revolution locally and internationally. His most fatal mistake is his hostility towards his Arab neighbors. The big powers seized this opportunity to rekindle the old rivalry between the two countries, and thus to exhaust their power in an endless and fierce war. The big powers kindled the war, are making certain it continues, and will decide when it should end. It is a war detrimental to the two warring countries and to the Islamic world. The big powers decided to punish Khomeyni because Iran supported the Palestinian cause and adopted a hostile attitude towards Israel; and to punish Iraq because Iraq called for the Baghdad Summit Conference which rejected the conspiracy of Camp David. Khomeyni's dream to export the Iranian Revolution to the neighboring countries, which was one of his biggest and most foolish mistakes, did not come true because of the fatal mistakes his revolution committee internally and externally on the one hand, and because of the ability of neighboring countries to defend themselves, on the other.

Question--What is the standpoint of the Saudi press regarding the attitude of the Syrian regime towards Muslims in Hamah? Don't you think it is a passive stand? Why do you remain silent on this issue?

Answer--This issue has several dimensions. First, the silence of the Syrian mass media with respect to the events in Hamah made it impossible for us and everybody else to draw an honest and truthful picture of the events. Second, the Saudi press was confronted with two bitter choices, either to attack the Syrian mass media, and thus create a misunderstanding between the two Arab countries, or remain aloof and consider the events as domestic problems only concerning the Syrians. By refusing to become involved, we believe we could keep the Arab relations intact. The Syrians may interpret the reports of the Saudi press as the official stand of the Kingdom. Most of the Saudi newspapers were aware of the complexity of the situation, therefore, they chose not to report on the treatment which the Muslims of Hamah were receiving. But some newspapers did indeed discuss the issue.

These are the questions which the Saudi students studying in the U. S. posed to Drs. 'Abdallah Manna' and Fahd al-Harithi. These questions indicate a high degree of our youths awareness of national and Arab concerns. By publishing these questions and answers we do not mean to demonstrate the freedom of expression which our press enjoys, but to show that our youths have the right to question and that it is our duty to provide answers. The desire to question reflects intellectual maturity, while the willingness to furnish answers demonstrates candor and openness because there is nothing to fear or to hide. We would like to conclude by affirming, after this dialogue with the youths, that the future of our country will be in good

hands. The coming generation, who will assume the responsibility, is eager to learn, discuss, and understand. These are very healthy signs. We expect them in the future to translate these qualities into constructive efforts to assist in the advancement of their country.

12188

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DATA ON CIVIL SERVICE SECTOR REPORTED

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 29 Nov 82 p 5

[Text] The complete awakening that has occurred throughout the Kingdom in recent decades has necessitated the expansion of the administrative organization and the development of its resources. This process first became intense with the establishment of the Council of Ministers on 1 February 1973. At that time, the role of the state in distributing services began to expand rapidly. Its functions grew in size and new burdens and responsibilities were undertaken. As a result, the state encountered some difficulties in providing the required numbers of specialists and experts to meet the requirements of the new activities. It found itself in an administrative position characterized by a continuous increase in the number of employees without achievement of the desired administrative efficiency.

At the beginning of the 1980's, it became clear that any guarantee of the success of the development plans was inextricably linked to the degree of efficiency of the administration and the effectiveness of the administrative organization. Thus, the state decided to move toward the adoption of ambitious programs for complete administrative reform. This began with cooperation with an American organization. A contract was signed with this organization on 27 Jumadi I 1383 A.H. [1963] to implement this program in the main fields: employee affairs, organization, procedures, finance, budgeting, training, and general functions.

Then the High Committee for Administrative Reform was formed under the leadership of his majesty the king and a handpicked group of senior officials to reorganize the administrative organizations. A preparatory committee to study the matters submitted to it was also formed. One of the first accomplishments of that committee was the issuance of Council of Ministers Decision No 792 of 29 Zual-Jum'ah 1383 A.H. [1963] which provided for the development of the Civil Service Bureau, specified its powers, and gave it new powers in the fields of service, employment, and civil service organization.

In 1971, a new regulation for civil servants was issued. From the legislative standpoint, this regulation was considered a basic step toward an integrated administrative system based on the merit principle and other principles setting forth the framework of organizational work in the field of

administration. These foundations were the start of a comprehensive administrative awakening that mounted with the addition of other important steps, including the formation of the Civil Service Council in 1976, the issuance of the civil service regulation and its rules, and the reinforcement of the organization and role of the General Bureau of the Civil Service.

As a result of the aspirations that constantly veer toward modernization in all fields of life, the standard of the civil service entered a progressive phase thanks to God, his majesty the king, and the crown prince.

Development of the Civil Service

The concept of the civil service varies from country to country according to the country's level of administration and economic and cultural conditions. In some countries, it includes individuals who do not hold political or legal posts but whose salaries are paid from the state treasury. In other countries, it is applied to positions that are obtained through competitive examination, are permanent in nature, and do not include members of the legislative bodies and legal corps. In still other countries it is limited to government workers or even administrations for affairs of government workers. This is naturally reflected in the designation of the functions of the organization that is responsible for regulating civil service affairs in the country. It is at the level of a civil service council in the Kingdom and some other Arab states, a public administration for government workers in other states, and a public service administration or organization and administration department in still other states.

In general, the concepts of the civil service in most countries center around certain primary characteristics whose focal point is the government worker and the permanent and specialized nonmilitary services he performs. In the Kingdom, the concept of the civil service is broadened to cover the following four basic elements:

1. The government employee: with respect to his qualification, selection and the regulation of his relationship to the state and his rights and duties from the beginning to the end of his government service career.
2. The job: with respect to specifying its duties and responsibilities, classifying it, and specifying its position in the administrative structure.
3. The regulations: includes all regulations, orders, decisions, opinions, and directives that regulate civil service affairs.
4. Public service: this is the main task that the government organization undertakes in various fields of work such as education, health, and agriculture.

The authority to formulate public policy for civil service affairs along with the planning, legislation, and oversight that are involved in this is centered

in the Civil Service Council. The General Bureau of the Civil Service is responsible for administrative matters connected with this sector and works to achieve the necessary advancement and development in this important sector.

Organization of Employment Regulations

In 1928, the first instructions pertaining to government employees were issued. These instructions formulated some employment regulations in keeping with the requirements of administration during this founding period when the affairs of the state were simple and its employees were few in number and limited in their functions. In 1944 the old general employees regulation was issued after the civil officials regulation had become restricted to the regulation of employment affairs.

After 10 years, it became necessary to revise the regulation following the establishment of several new ministries. Thus after 1953, the instructions pertaining to the general cadre, the schedules for government employees, and the classification of their jobs as well as the Ministry of Defense cadre were issued. The state organizations continued to grow and expand until 1957. When the General Government Employees Regulation was issued. This regulation put forward some new principles applicable on a phased basis to civil service conditions.

Emergence of the Government Employees Bureau

Until 1943, the Bureau of Government Employees and Retirement was a small organization responsible for a limited number of functions. From the organizational standpoint, it was under the Ministry of Finance. In 1953, it was given a "designation" and came under the authority of the Council of Ministers. At this time, the workers in the state were divided into two groups: government employees (muwazzafin) (inside the organization), and workers (mustakhdamin) (outside the organization). In 1958, another regulation for employees was issued and the name "Government Employees Bureau" was changed to "General Government Employees Bureau." In 1971, a good regulation for government employees was issued and with this regulation began an organizational phase that is considered a main turning point in the civil service field in the Kingdom because it laid the foundations and the basic principles for the civil service and its structure.

The most important features of this regulation are as follows:

--Concentration on the job as the basic cell in the work of the organization which requires that the job categories and stipulations for holding the jobs be defined precisely.

--The adoption of new administrative principles, centralized announcement of the filling of positions, and the principle of classification of positions.

--Flexibility in the ladder of salaries and allowances through the establishment of 15 grades with 10 steps per grade up to the tenth grade.

--Emphasis on the principle of administrative efficiency in the field of promotion, transportation, overall cost, and rational [assignments] rather than total dependence on the principle of seniority.

Features of the Current Regulations

The regulations of 1976 contain new features for state workers that are aimed at encouraging the Saudi citizen to seek a government career and participate in the awakening of his country by joining in its activities, which are broad and extend into every facet of life. The main features and rights contained in the regulations can be summarized as follows:

--The consideration of experience, training sessions, and the specification of certain individual skills.

--Financial advantages include annual salaries and raises and allowances, remunerations, compensations, and promotions.

--Nonfinancial rights include vacations, loans, training at home or abroad, and opportunities to be sent abroad for study.

Role of the Bureau in the Civil Service

An article in the regulations of the Civil Service Council stipulates that the bureau is an independent organization responsible for overseeing civil service affairs in the ministries, government agencies, and public corporations and is connected with the Civil Service Council.

Article 10 of the same regulations defines the responsibilities of the bureau as follows:

--Monitoring of the implementation of the regulations of the civil service and the orders and decisions connected with it as well as the conducting of studies and research related to it, particularly in the fields of classification of jobs, salaries, remunerations, allowances, and compensations.

--The expression of opinions, the proposal of regulations and directives pertaining to civil service affairs, the proposal of salaries, allowances, and the like, the studying of jobs that should be created, cooperation with employee affairs departments and the steering of these departments in the best directions, and the investigation of employee complaints transmitted by the responsible agencies and the delivering of opinions on these complaints.

Some 904 Authorized Jobs

At the end of 1979, there were 904 authorized positions in the bureau of which 522 or 58 percent were occupied and 382 or 42 percent were unoccupied.

In late 1979, the bureau moved into its new building which was designed appropriately to distribute the functions of the departments. The

building is provided with all the facilities to create a comfortable working environment and appropriate work surroundings for the employee.

Four Changes in 10 Years

With regard to salaries, the state made four adjustments to salaries during the 1970's and the fifth adjustment was made in mid-1981.

The salary adjustments made during this period also affected transportation allowances, raises, and the other extra allowances that are given to employees according to the regulations.

One important element in these adjustments in salaries was the fact that the difference between the highest and lowest salaries in the civil service changed from one adjustment to another. Whereas it was 20 times in 1971, the ratio decreased to 14 in 1976 and 15.8 in 1981.

The Allowances

In addition to the monthly salary earned by the employee, the state pays additional fixed amounts or percentages for certain purposes and subject to certain stipulations. The allowance could be authorized for all employees in government service, it could be for those in charge of work, or the nature of the employees work could be the basis for payment of the allowance as in the case of the research allowance [Sabbatical leave], or the profession allowance.

By granting allowances, the state is aiming at several goals such as rewarding the workers for their extra efforts or work in certain types of positions, compensating them for the difficulties, effects, and circumstances of work, or encouraging people to accept certain positions for which there are shortages. In some cases, allowances are granted for some jobs which could possibly result in harm, risk, or hostile action for the individuals who hold them. Or the allowance could be compensation extra work or extraordinary efforts made by an employee.

The Setting of Allowances

The Allowances and Salaries Administration specified the proposed positions for the entitlement of the harm and hostile action or danger allowance when some 2,044 villages were specified as coming under entitlement for allowances as remote areas in accordance with the circumstances prevailing in them.

General order 14/10 issued on 30 Muharrim 1398 A.H. [1977] specified the positions entitled to a profession allowance, most of which were in the field of training and instruction. In addition, specialists in administration made a large number of field trips to a number of government agencies to seek the desired information. A large number of allowances were approved for entitled employees after the study of 250 applications made by the allowance committee, which was formed in accordance with Article 27/23 of the executive order of the the civil service regulation.

Employment Measures

The General Civil Service Bureau is responsible for the task of staffing to fill the public positions in accordance with the following measures:

- The study of vacant positions and the potential for filling them in accordance with the jobs classification plan.
- The formulation of the required standards and the necessary examinations for the employment competitions.
- The announcement of the vacant positions, the holding of competitions, and the nomination of the successful applicants.
- The collection of data on projected graduates from institutes and universities for distribution throughout the government organizations.

The General Hiring Administration carries out its functions through its four departments: the Hiring Research Department, the Hiring Department, the Department of Examinations, and the Review and Nomination Department.

A Quick Look at Hiring in the Kingdom

Government positions have grown during the last 10 years at an annual rate that has reached 21 percent and the budget for these positions has tripled. Centralized hiring deals with four main groups:

1. University graduates in all phases of their education and specialties.
2. Graduates of technical and professional institutions as well as teachers institutes.
3. Holders of secondary and preparatory school diplomas who desire government positions.
4. Those employees with qualifications and experience who enter the announced job competitions with the aim of gaining higher grades. This can occur when they have occupied their positions for two years and are seeking to shorten the regulation period necessary for advancement, which is four years.

Some 93,500 Government Employees

During the last 10 years, 93,596 men and women have been hired. Some 20,972 of those hired were college graduates, including 17,935 men and 3,037 women. Some 40,702 were from teachers institutes, including 25,048 men and 15,654 women. Some 14,386 of those hired were from technical institutes, including 12,866 men and 1,520 women. Some 17,536 were holders of general secondary diplomas, including 14,277 men and 3,264 women [numbers as published].

Backlog of Positions

The percentage of positions held by Saudis is currently over 44 percent. The number of vacant positions is mounting because of the increase in the number of positions created, which was 54,853 in 1970-71 and approximately 164,686 positions in 1979-80. It is well known that the possibility of filling these positions from the domestic labor market is limited.

Training

One of the most important means of developing the skills and capabilities of the labor force in general and state workers in particular is training. This training can take place through study or through training abroad or at home through the attendance of planned training sessions or programs or through training. With regard to training in the civil service, a training order was issued in Civil Service Council Decision No 16 of 19 Safr 1398 A.H. [1977]. This order defines the general goal of training, which is to raise the efficiency of state employees. The specified objectives of training are:

1. Preparation of the employee to assume a vacant government position or a government position that requires preparation or training and is currently occupied by a foreign contractor.
2. The raising of the level of performance among employees or improvement or development of the administrative environment in the government organizations through improvement of their work systems.
3. The preparation of employees to pursue a new method of work or to use new equipment.
4. Retraining or the preparation of individuals who are to be steered toward new types of work as a result of work or employee conditions.

Training Abroad

From 1975 to 1979, 978 trainees were trained in Europe and the Scandinavian states while 586 individuals were trained in North and South America, 131 individuals were trained in Asia, and 358 individuals were trained in the Arab states for a total of 2,053 trainees. The trainees were distributed among the following specialties: health, engineering, the sciences, agriculture, water, administration, education, teaching, maintenance, technical training, computers, languages, etc.

In order to control the sending of students abroad and apply the provisions of the training order universally, the responsible department completed and disseminated a training manual which brings together the articles of the order, the decisions of the Civil Service Council and the Training Committee that pertain to each article, and the plans and legal opinions that have been issued. In addition, a sample of the annual training plan from which must be sent during the month of Rabi' II by the government agencies was prepared.

Training Inside the Country

The order prohibits sending individuals abroad for programs that have counterparts within the country. The individual appointed for training inside the country is granted 100 percent of the monthly salary when the town in which training occurs is different from the town where the job is located and 30 percent of the monthly salary when training takes place in the town in which the job is located.

The individual in training inside the country is also granted an extra monthly transportation allowance equal to the allowance applicable for his grade, a detachment allowance if he must relocate either inside or outside the country, and a moving allowance for a period of training exceeding 90 days equal to what is paid to the individual sent for training with the compensation of a monthly salary for the individual who passes in accordance with the specified rules.

The Public Administration Institute plays a primary role in helping to train state employees, raise their level of competence, and prepare them theoretically and practically to meet the country's needs for trained native manpower. During the past 10 years, there have been some 27,854 graduates of various programs of the Public Administration Institute. These graduates have been distributed among upper programs; training, preparatory, and private programs; and English language programs.

A large number of students are trained in the administration institute. Their salaries are paid by the General Bureau of the Civil Service until they graduate. As of the end of 1980, there 479 students in the institute training in fields that included financial controls, regulations, administration, computers, hospitals, and transcriber. The number of fields will likely increase because of ongoing promotions.

There are several specialized training institutes in a number of fields such as postal services, communications, diplomatic studies, banking, aviation, and the agricultural and health fields. In addition, there are institutions for professional training located throughout all parts of the country. These institutions graduated 13,606 trainees from 1977 to 1979.

Contracting

The ambitious plans begun by the Kingdom on the road to the total awakening that the country is experiencing in all fields is a strong factor in the continuous expansion in the hiring of manpower, including all specialties and levels of experience, because the available supply has not met the need completely. The hiring previously took place in a simplified and direct manner without centralized organization or carefully planned rules. That situation called for the study and organization of this important phenomenon and the laying of the foundations for hiring through recruitment from Arab and non-Arab states according to a policy and method leading to optimum selection, the standardization of procedures, and the control of the process in a suitable manner.

This task was entrusted to the General Bureau of the Civil Service which studied the general needs of government organizations and conducted comparative studies of the employment markets abroad. This resulted in the formulation of organized programs and policies for the distribution of the needs over those markets and subsequently the opening of a number of foreign employment offices. These moves were defined in Council of Ministers Decision No 1113 of 24 Sha'ban 1397 A.H. [1976] which established regularized Saudi employment offices in the countries in which large numbers of workers are being hired for the government sectors, public agencies, and public organizations. It was provided that these offices would first be opened in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Pakistan and these offices began operations in Rajab 1398 A.H. [1977]. This was followed by the opening of an office in Bangladesh and more recently in Tunisia, Europe, America, and the Philippines.

The offices contracted for 9,511 jobs in 1979 and 10,255 jobs in 1980 while some 70,000 jobs had been contracted for in the Kingdom by the end of 1979. The bureau sends some 13,000 jobs to its offices abroad to be contracted for each year.

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YEAR (A.H.)

Grade	YEAR (A.H.)					Increase 1391-97	1401 [1980]	Total Increase 1391-1401 [1971-1980]
	1391	1393	1395	1396	1397			
15	5,000	5,750	6,610	7,405	9,255	4,255	15,000	10,000
14	4,000	4,600	5,380	6,030	8,020	4,020	12,095	8,095
13	3,590	4,130	4,875	5,460	7,200	3,610	10,750	7,160
12	2,990	3,440	4,130	4,630	6,390	3,400	9,390	6,400
11	2,490	2,865	3,495	3,915	5,600	3,110	8,165	5,675
10	2,075	2,385	2,955	3,310	4,800	2,725	7,000	4,925
9	1,730	1,990	2,510	2,815	4,110	2,380	6,240	4,510
8	1,440	1,655	2,100	2,355	3,485	2,045	5,285	3,845
7	1,200	1,380	1,765	1,980	2,970	1,770	4,530	3,330
6	1,000	1,150	1,495	1,675	2,515	1,515	3,815	2,815
5	835	960	1,250	1,400	2,100	1,265	3,190	2,355
4	695	800	1,040	1,165	1,750	1,055	2,655	1,960
3	580	665	865	970	1,455	875	2,210	1,630
2	480	550	715	805	1,210	730	1,825	1,345
1	400	460	600	675	1,015	615	1,500	1,100
33	550	645	825	925	1,390	840	1,950	1,400
32	370	425	555	625	940	570	1,350	970
31	250	300	390	440	660	410	950	700

Development of Government Employees Salaries
From 1391[1971] to 1401 A.H. [1980] by Grades

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

ISRAELI ARAB ENTERS COUNTRY--The Saudi authorities have, for the first time, allowed an Israeli Arab to enter the country outside the framework of the pilgrimage to Mecca. He is (Mustafa Muhammad Ziyad) from the village of Tamra who went there to search for his father who has been missing for 5 months now after having participated in the pilgrimage. At first he stayed in Jordan, from where he submitted a request to be allowed into Saudi Arabia. He was granted an entry permit although it was well known that he is Israeli. He stayed in Saudi Arabia 2 weeks, but his efforts to find his father were unsuccessful. [Text] [TA250935 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Feb 83]

CSO: 4400/245

DANGERS OF PREMATURE WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON ANALYZED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Jan 83 p 3

[Article by 'Izz al-Din Idris: "Lebanon and Syria's Security"]

[Text] What is taking place in Lebanon is of great concern to Syria, not only in its capacity as a part of the Arab nation but also as Lebanon's only Arab neighbor.

Israel wants to impose its complete control on Lebanon and is lying on Lebanon's chest with its war machine and with the support of the United States. Can Syria stand a spectator toward what is happening when what is happening is most like a strong hand squeezing Syria's side or like a poisoned dagger stabbed into the body of Syria's historical twin, Lebanon?

In other words, can Syria watch all that is being done by this enemy without participating and standing, as it has done historically, with Lebanon in confronting what is happening and to prevent its occurrence?

Syria has answered this throughout its history when it waged its battle of independence against the French colonialists and when it gained its independence with Lebanon simultaneously through their common struggle.

Much earlier, when Syria stood in the face of the tyranny of the Ottomans and of their representative, Jamal Pasha, the blood of the Syrian people mingled with the blood of the fraternal Lebanese people and Syrian and Lebanese struggles were executed in Beirut and Damascus for the same reasons and the same goals and at the same time. The Ottomans, and later the French, failed to establish impenetrable barriers between the parts of the same body. Syria answered in 1958 when the U.S. Sixth Fleet forces landed on Beirut's shores, Syria answered again when the multi-sided plot against Lebanon began and reached its peak in 1976, putting its forces at the disposal of the Lebanese Government to be used for whatever achieves Lebanon's unity, security and sovereignty. Regardless of the entangled and many-sided plots that have engulfed and continue to engulf the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, the Syrian position has come in response to the logic of history and the dictates of geography and has emanated from the common interest and common destiny of the Syrian and Lebanese peoples who are by roots and in reality a single people.

In June 1982, the Israeli aggression against Lebanon came to achieve what the Ottoman and French colonialism had failed to achieve under conditions when both Lebanon and Syria were tens of times weaker than they are at present. Will the new settlement-oriented colonialism succeed in abolishing the historical and geographical facts? Besides, what does the Israeli domination of Lebanon mean other than striking Syria in stages and subjugating it to this domination in preparation for striking the other Arab countries and totally and completely torpedoing the Arab national security?

What will happen if Israel succeeds in bringing Lebanon's shores and air space under its permanent control? What will happen if Israel succeeds in achieving its well-known demand in the negotiations with Lebanon to use all of Lebanon's geographic advantages in the interest of its present and future schemes against Syria by insisting on the presence of Israeli military observation posts in the Lebanese territories? Isn't the Lebanese arm extending from Ba'labakk to the sea (linked to Syria's heart), namely Homs in central Syria? If Israel controls Lebanon's air space, geography [sic] and shores, it is not unlikely that the enemy plans to put pressure on central Syria in any future aggression so as to split it into 2 parts by occupying the cities of Homs and Hamah. Moreover, isn't al-Haramun mountain range which is shared by Syria and Lebanon the shoulder of the Syrian capital, Damascus? Doesn't the presence of the Israeli forces in Rashayya and al-Baruk mountain mean that these forces are entrenched near the Syrian capital? When Lebanon's geography so directly touches central Syria and Syria's capital, how could Syria's security and future not be gravely threatened if the enemy controls and dominates the geography of the fraternal Lebanon?

Some Arabs may not be aware of the danger of this situation because they are relatively far from the danger and because the Israeli cancer has not yet affected them. But Syria is aware of the danger, feels the pain and cannot submit to fate and wait for the future.

Consequently, Syria is directly concerned with the outcome of the negotiations imposed on Lebanon. The Israeli conditions presented to Lebanon are conditions for total control of Lebanon at present. But at the same time, they are premeditated conditions for controlling Syria at a future phase. If Lebanon's sovereignty and security are wrested through confirmation [approval] of the Israeli conditions, it will not be Lebanon only that is in Israel's grip but Syria's security and future will be directly threatened by the Israeli enemy. Herein lies the essence of the fateful security relationship between Syria and Lebanon. This relationship, dictated by geography since the days of the Romans and throughout history, is unparalleled by any fateful relationship between any other two Arab countries.

If there are in Lebanon few people who are not aware of these historical and geographic facts and who have sold themselves to the enemy, favoring this enemy over the twin brother, this doesn't mean that the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people are ignorant of these facts because they know them better than some people in other Arab countries who have turned blind and who are waiting impatiently for Lebanon to surrender so that their turn for surrender may follow, as is the case of some lackey Arab regimes and of those who have fought in the

enemy ranks--such as Sa'd Haddad's gang in Lebanon. Those who call for Syria's departure from Lebanon before the last soldier of the Israeli enemy leaves it under the slogan of facilitating the task of the Lebanese negotiator and of depriving Israel of one of its pretexts--those who call for this departure are either ignorant or they disregard the enemy's nature and his real goals. The enemy is not so naive as to plan his real goals and work to realize them by depending on imaginary pretexts and superficial oratorical logic. The enemy does not lack the means to create a thousand pretexts instead of one to implement his aggressive schemes and to achieve his expansionist ambitions when the time comes. If one acknowledges such a logic, would not this mean that the attempt on the life of the enemy's ambassador in London was the reason behind the invasion of Lebanon at a time when the PLO had observed for over a year the agreement to cease fire from the Lebanese territories?

The attempt on the ambassador's life by a gang behind which Israel may have stood was enough justification for Israel to invade Lebanon. If Syria and the Palestinian resistance depart from Lebanon to embarrass Israel and to deprive it of this justification, wouldn't a single attempt on the life of a Zionist enemy leader within the Lebanese territories be enough for Israel to announce that it will stay on the land after the departure of Syria and the resistance? Let us leave this heresy to its advocates, be they lackeys or trivial and narrow-minded people, and let us state frankly and clearly that it is Syria's right, rather its duty, to protect its national security and to cling to every position demanded by the necessities of the national security as long as the enemy is in a position that threatens this security so seriously, as in the case of this enemy's presence in Lebanon.

The advocates of "realistic" thought and vision, and many they are, may say that this means providing the enemy with the necessary pretext to complete his aggression and to attack Syria and occupy parts of it? The answer to this is that the enemy already has plans for a large-scale aggression against Syria when the conditions he is seeking to create become available and that the enemy's ability to implement his aggressive schemes against Syria now or in the future depends on us primarily and on our ability to use all our capacity resolutely and effectively. It also depends on the quality of our international relations and friendships and on our adopting the best and clearest means to mobilize idle Arab capabilities controlled by the U.S. imperialism by depending on the will of the Arab masses and on their true emotions that can be touched off only by effective steadfastness and effective confrontation against a criminal and arrogant enemy who will not hesitate to commit any crime or massacre, such as the massacres he has committed in Sabra, Shatila, Bahr al-Baqar and tens of Arab cities and villages inside and outside the occupied territories.

Syria has repeatedly declared its position through President Hafiz al-Asad in official meetings and open speeches. Syria will not capitulate to the pressures and will face all the eventualities with an unwavering determination. The others, if they are sincere in what they pretend to be, must bolster this position, not cast doubts among the public opinion on the serious nature of this position and then act differently. Raising doubts among the public opinion as to its capabilities and to the seriousness of the policy of its government covers three quarters the way to defeat because the people's morale is

what ultimately determines the outcome of any war and because the people are the instrument of the war and the source of whatever the war needs in material and human terms. Serious preparation for war means, before anything else, preparing the people politically and morally to make the sacrifices without reluctance.

Syria is not an easy morsel for the Israeli or even the U.S. orge to swallow or digest. Even in Lebanon, with its limited resources--if its citizens unite, renounce their subsidiary conflicts, consolidate their ranks, block the path of the sectarian sedition that has fought on the enemy's side and if they decide on confrontation, the enemy will not be able to stay in the Lebanese territories. The daring acts carried out by the Lebanese national resistance, despite the small number of its members, against the invasion forces and the losses that they inflict on the enemy ranks arouse terror in the hearts of the Zionists. What would the enemy's condition be when the tempo of these attacks quickens and when thousands of patriotic Lebanese join the ranks of the resistance, taking advantage of the terrain and of the density of the population!

The enemy knows perfectly well that an all-out attack against Syria will cost him more than all its previous attacks against the Arabs. He also knows that Syria has human and military capabilities that enable it to defend itself effectively and that it is not alone in the arena in the face of the utter support the United States gives Israel. The enemy further knows that Syria has friends in the world to whom it is bound by firm and strong relations and friendship treaties emanating from the common vital interest of the two sides and that the U.S. horse cannot run to its heart's desire in the Middle East arena. The arena is not free of all obstacles and if this horse continues to run unrestrained it will hit the obstacles and fall.

Therefore, those who circulate [claim] that both Syria and its friends are powerless in the face of the U.S.-Zionist onrush are only contributing to the campaign of doubts and scare which the enemy has launched to destroy the people's morale. The enemy knows well that before destroying the people's morale he cannot risk an aggression that may cost him the destruction of all that he has built throughout long years. The enemy does not take risks that have not been calculated carefully and from all sides. He knows when to move and where to stop.

But if we learn useful lessons from our experiences with him and if we define him as he truly is, without exaggeration and without under-estimation, then we in Syria, with the aid of the friends and the support of the Arab masses, will be able to put an end to the enemy's arrogance and to secure our future and our Arab nation's future because we are in the right and we are engaging in legitimate self-defense.

8494

CSO: 4404/238

TAX REVENUES FOR 1982 DISCLOSED

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Dec 82 p 4

[Article: "10.8 Billion Pounds Revenue from Taxes and Fees for 1982"]

[Text] Total revenue from taxes and local fees reached 10.861 billion in 1982, compared to 8.5 billion in 1981, an increase of 2.36 billion, or 27 percent. The annual rate of increase had been set at 20.5 percent.

Minister of Finance Dr Hamdi al-Saqqa said that the most important reasons for [the increase in revenues from] taxes and fees are implementation of the new income tax law, number 21 of 1981; application of law number 2 of 1982, which eliminates tax exemptions for some parts of the public sector; the comprehensive property survey conducted by the ministry of finance, which revealed a large amount of property not officially recorded; and measures taken to reduce and limit commercial expenditures for rents, salaries and administrative expenses. The last came at a time when expenditures which included participation in the economic, social, and cultural sectors consisted primarily of defraying the deficits of certain public organizations, such as those for transportation and water. The measures also cover school books and should help defraying the public treasury's debts to the central bank.

Investment revenues in 1983 reached 12.5 billion compared to 11.3 billion for the current year [last year probably intended], an increase of approximately 10.66 percent, thanks to increased profits in certain sectors, particularly oil and industry. [As published.]

The minister of finance said that the budget contained provisions for basic goals, including completion of essential projects, especially production projects, and speeding up completion of new projects which will complement existing ones.

We should note that the budget deficit rate has decreased to 4.3 percent of local production, following a 7 percent deficit for 1981-1982.

The budget has been in keeping with the goals set for it in the 5-year plan and the rate of growth specified therein, relying primarily on existing local resources and on investment.

9882

CS 4404-100

AL-LADHIQIYAH INVESTMENT PROJECTS DETAILED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 31 Dec 82 p 5

[Article by Zuhayr [word illegible]: "Percentage of Investment Projects Completed in al-Ladhiqiyah this Year Reaches 90 Percent"]

[Text] At the end of each year the planning directorates present reports on their annual rate of completion of investment projects, including suggestions by the parties concerned and the reasons for work delays.

The al-Ladhiqiyah planning directorate sent a summary of its annual operations to the appropriate party and government authorities for discussion, since this is the official authorized document of any operation. It was distributed after the following were added:

Overview

Projects of the local administration investment plan for al-Ladhiqiyah and Jablah municipalities
Independent budget projects

The annual plan for al-Ladhiqiyah Province (local administrative agencies) included the projects which were transferred to the ministry of local administration, projects of first and second category municipalities (al-Ladhiqiyah and Jablah) and the independent public budget projects which fulfill the goals of the fifth 5-year plan by achieving rural development in sectors determined by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, which sets up the independent budgets. Projects were stipulated for roads, water, pipe networks, schools and health centers. All of these were financed by fees from the local administration, volunteer work and general assistance from the government.

The report put the percentage of projects completed under this plan at 95 percent, the highest known in the province in recent years, which confirms that the projects kept to their cash and material budgets.

In following the 24-page report, one page requires close examination since it provides detailed figures, loans extended and expenditures as of the date of the report, all compared with the completion ratio. In this regard the directorate

adopted an official [appropriate] plan, the essence of its work in order to deal with this task because it is difficult for one to look at each point since there are many figures. However, the importance of doing something like this annually, which is being done in our sister socialist countries, gives planning special importance because in the final analysis, it is the basis for setting up projects, dealing with errors, overcoming obstacles and moving operations forward.

Since all problems culminate eventually at the top administrative agency in the province, we met with comrade Shafiq Arna'ut, governor of Latakia, who talked about the report and gave us a brief idea of the projects, especially as they concern the local administration and second-category municipalities. We then went to the Latakia planning directorate to find out what methods are used and to review the very detailed figures. We shall try to convey the details as the governor explained them.

Investment Projects:

Al-Ladhiqiyah Provinces' loans for investment projects during 1982 amounted to 149,645,000 Syrian pounds, distributed among local administration agencies and municipalities as follows:

<u>Name of agency</u>	<u>Annual loans</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Rate of Expenditure</u>
Local administration	100 million	92	92 percent
Municipalities of al-Latakia and Jablah	49 million	40	82 percent

Independent budget investments in water, school, health center and road projects were around 20 million pounds, with percentages varying from one project to another.

Local Administration:

The local administration completed most of its diverse projects. We will look at them briefly since they are directly related to our citizens' lives.

At the old fire department building next to Ughariyat Square, the skeletal plan of a shopping complex has been built, and the complex will be completed next year.

Twenty schools have been completed in al-Latakia and the surrounding area, with 240 branches. Furthermore, four border-area schools are under construction as part of the independent budget. The vocational secondary school in Jablah has been put into service.

So far, approximately 90 percent of construction on vocational schools in al-Ladhiqiyah has been completed since they were in use in the past, the center for primary school instructors has been completed, and two vocational secondary schools will be completed in al-Haffah and Kursana at the beginning of next year.

Completion of school projects has not stopped, since a contract was signed with the housing organization for 700 new primary and school branches which will be ready for use in 1983.

The following table shows the 1982 plan and the total percentages of road construction completed.

<u>Name of region</u>	<u>Work planned for completion</u>	<u>Work completed</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Jablah	90 km	90 km	100
al-Haffah	100 km	80 km	80
al-Ladhiqiyah	98 km	98 km	100
al-Qardahah	62 km	58 km	94

The ROADCO company is doing the work, and roads in rural areas and the primary roads linking them with the other province have been maintained at an approximate average completion rate for secondary roads of 92 percent in all regions.

Comment:

The report contains tables with the names of roads completed in each village, their lengths and the required leveling, paving, tarring and surface spraying, as well as completed leveling, paving, tarring and surface spraying. Figures given for all regions are then compiled. After that future work and that completed are compared and the final rate of completion is determined.

In the health field, the new south wing of the national hospital has been completed and will be put into use at the beginning of 1983, with a 140-bed capacity. Health centers have been completed and put into use in Hayy ad-Da'tur, al-Daliyah al-Samiyah, Harf al-Mast'irah, Burj Islam and al-Salibah. Some centers under the independent budget have been completed, and construction work is underway on the Qardahah and al-Haffah hospitals, each with a capacity of 120 beds.

The second group of water projects in the coastal line has been completed, supplying water to 12 villages and farms with 11,000 inhabitants. The first group has been completed and at the beginning of next year will be put into use, providing water to 22 villages with 13,000 residents.

Around 95 percent of the water project for Tarjanu and the neighboring villages has been completed. It will be put into use at the beginning of next year to provide water to 24 villages and farms with approximately 5000 inhabitants.

Work is underway on the water project for the third group in the coastal line, which needs a water company to supply water to 33 villages and farms with a population of 26,000.

The Ballaran-Kassab dam project is underway to supply water to 37 villages in the area of al-Ladhiqiyah, with more than 10,000 residents--the vacation spots of Kassab, al-Qastal, al-Naba'in, al-Rabuh and Ra's al-Basit. Work is in progress to improve the Safsaf water project, which lacks a water company and

will be completed in 1983 to replace the old project, which will be flooded by the Nahr al-Kabir dam reservoir. It will supply water to 28 villages in the area of al-Ladhiqiyah with 50,000 residents after the first and second stages are completed.

The water project to Wadi Qandil in al-Ladhiqiyah was improved by increasing the water power and by using it more effectively to supply water to nine villages having 9,000 residents. Several small projects financed by the independent budget were completed in rural areas.

In the region of al-Ladhiqiyah, electric projects supplied electricity to 19 villages, with 10 more to be added at the end of the year. In Jablah, 39 villages were electrified, with three to be added. In the region of al-Haffah, 41 villages were electrified, and Wata al-Khan will be electrified before the end of the year. In al-Qardahah, 19 villages were electrified, to which the villages of Wata Dayr Zaytun, Qal'ah al'Mahalah, 'Ayn Jandal and farms in Qalyun and Ra's al-Qaluriyah in 'Abdus. The electrification plan for this year was completed noticeably faster, as far as providing electricity to villages, laying cables, installing meters and other jobs.

The plan for cultural centers included the establishment of three cultural centers in the regions of al-Jablah, al-Qardahah and al-Haffah. Land has been set aside, the ministry of culture has completed the studies and construction will begin next year.

Municipalities:

The municipalities' budget was 23,300,000 Syrian pounds for road, construction, electricity, parks, power line, mechanical, topographical planning and fire department projects.

Al-Ladhiqiyah municipality's rate of project completion was around 80 percent, with a group of projects completed inside the city such as: The new Jumhuriyah Street, which extends from the second square to the entrance of the city, connecting at north al-Raml highway, and from there to al-Azraq coast; Al-Yamiyn Square next to the new train station, the old corniche, al-Mutanabbi Street; al-Husayni road and a group of secondary roads in residential areas.

Al-Ladhiqiyah's southern corniche is also under way, contracted to the Qasiyun Company, as is the repairing of roads, replacing of pavement stones, pouring of concrete and building of shelters at bus and car stops. Industrial sites and roads have been built. A water tank has been constructed in the town slaughterhouse, as have housing units on al-Yarmuk Street and shops in the tourist district.

Miscellaneous:

The report gives detailed information on electrification, parks, pipes, mechanical work, topographical planning and fire departments.

The report also details the difficulties and proposals regarding completion of al-Ladhiqiyah development projects.

Also contained in the report were the financial statement for the Jablah area municipality and a report on roads completed...construction, water, public electrical works, pipes and parks, with 51.2 million Syrian pounds spent and 87 percent of the work completed. It also described the independent budget project loans and rate of expenditure, clarifying all the comments and suggestions regarding the projects. In these comments, one can see that third and fourth category municipalities were not represented. Thirteen municipalities did not submit reports on progress on their projects during 1982, and some municipalities sent reports on the first quarter of the year.

The directorate of planning will complete its work when it receives the required statements.

9882

CSO: 4404/210

BRIEFS

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO MUNICIPALITIES--Yesterday Minister of Local Administration 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi announced decisions regarding the distribution of 200 million Syrian pounds to all municipalities to back implementation of their investment projects in order to help revitalize public services for the citizens. These decisions specified that third and fourth category municipalities would be given 132 million Syrian pounds, distributed as follows: Damascus Province, 12 million pounds, including 3 million for 'Artuz; Aleppo Province, 15 million; Homs Province, 11 million; Hamah Province, 11 million; Idlib Province, 11 million; Latakia Province, 10 million; Tartus Province 10 million, including requirements of Arwad municipality; Dayr al-Zawr Province, 10 million; al-Suwayda' Province, 9 million; Dar'a Province, 9 million; al-Raqqa Province, 9 million, including requirements of Tal Abyad municipality; and al-Qunaytirah Province, 6 million. [As published: Al-Hasakah Province was omitted in the original text, and the preceding figures amount to only 123 million pounds.] These decisions also specified that 67,815,000 pounds would be allocated to first and second category municipalities, those which are centers of their provinces, as well as to al-Qamishli, Jablah, al-Sabdan, Duma, al-Nabak, al-Tall and Darayya. [Text] [Damascus AL-THAWRAH 30 Dec 82 p 4] 9882

HIGH DAM CAPACITY TO BE EXPANDED--After the Director General of the General Organization for the Euphrates Dam, Engineer Shakir Bazu'a, returned from a working visit to the Soviet Union where he and his delegation met with officials in the Soviet Ministry of Power & Electrification, Gosplan [State Planning Committee] and the supplier Tekhnopromeksport, he said that they had discussed raising the height of the Euphrates Dam by 4 meters. This would raise the water level from 300 to 304 meters, increase the water in al-Asad Lake by 2.5 billion cubic meters and expand the capacity of the power plant inside the dam. They also discussed studies and technical plans for this project and a broad timetable for implementation. The director also said that a contract was signed for the Soviet Union to provide the operational designs for the regulatory Dam [as published] on the Euphrates and that agreement was reached with the Soviets on a broad timetable for providing the machines, materials and equipment necessary to implement all phases of this project, since both sides agreed that construction should be completed, machines set up and

one group of the original three put into operation at the end of 1985. They also discussed the Soviets' supplying spare parts for the power plant and presenting the final technical report on the Euphrates Dam, and discussed solving the related financial and contractual concerns. Concluding his remarks, the director emphasized that the talks were beneficial and that carrying out these projects would better our country's economy, especially since its development projects are growing rapidly. [Text] [Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Dec 82 p 4] 9882

CSO: 4404/210

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

NEW NIGERIAN ENVOY--UAE Foreign Affairs Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Rahaman al-Jarawan today received the credentials of Alhaji (Tahro) Abu Bakar (Waziri), the new nonresident Nigerian ambassador to the UAE. The ambassador's permanent residence will be in Jidda. [GF082036 Abu Dhabi Wam in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Mar 83]

CSO: 4400/245

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

MUHAMMAD SENDS CABLE TO AL-ASAD--Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the presidium of the supreme people's council, and chairman of the council of ministers, sent a congratulatory cable to his brother Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic and secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, on the 20th anniversary of the 8 March revolution. The cable reads: "On the 20th anniversary of the Syrian 8 March revolution it pleases me to extend to you and through you to the fraternal Syrian people's masses my warmest cordial congratulations and struggling greetings, wishing you more victories in the way of struggle against imperialism and Zionism. It also pleases me to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the prominent role revolutionary Syria is playing in the liberation struggle our Arab peoples and their progressive nationalist forces are waging. I affirm to you that our persistent support for Syria and its struggling people against all forms of hostile challenges will continue." [GF080758 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 MT 8 Mar 83]

CSO: 4400/245

ECONOMIC GROWTH REPORTED SLOWER THAN ESTIMATED

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 5 Feb 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hossain Khasru]

[Text] As optimism about an early economic expansion within a framework of relative price stability seems now clearly to be shipwrecked on the rocks of hard realities, the projection of growth for 1982-83 has of late been revised downward.

The import of "supply-side" economic recipe which advocates the abdication of government in economics to market forces, and its concentration exclusively on removing the impediments to the unfettered operation" of the private enterprise has obviously failed to get the economy moving along the "desired lines".

The latest official estimates' have set the growth target for 1982-83 at 4.5 percent in place of earlier projection, initially buoyed up by rhetoric and hope, at six percent.

The Dhaka Middle Class cost of living Index, a broad indicator of average price trends in the country, had shown an eight percent inflationary upswing during the first five months of the current financial year. This, by itself, does not appear to pose any "extra-concern" for the policy-planners in view of more bitter experience on the price situation in the past.

For the common people, an inflationary rate of even this (otherwise modest) level on top of an already high-pitch prices of daily essentials that account for most of their expenditure budgets, must be having very chilling effects. Any erosion of their real incomes through price effects is bound to cause hardships and sacrifices of wider dimensions.

Finance Minister's Prognosis

With investments in both private and public sector still showing lags, the level of current economic activities, according to the finance and planning minister in his recent interview with the government-controlled vernacular daily, is now still far short of those in 1979-80 and 1980-81. Finance minister Muhith is reported to have said that it would take more time for the economy to return its performance to the level of two or three years back.

The latest projection of 4.5 percent growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in 1982-83 will not mean much of a surge in economic activities in the country as this projected expansion in GDP would take place over the base of last year when the economy registered an expansion of only 0.9 per cent in real terms as compared with 6.1 percent achieved in 1980-81.

The representatives of the private sector, upon whom the government has now pinned so much of hope and confidence for the country's economic performance, have recently felt that the government policies in import, trade, industrial licensing sanction and funding, fiscal arrangements etc. would need further revamping and restructuring to tone up the economy.

At a conference organised by Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry at the port city, they have noted that small and medium importers have been elbowed out of the trade because of the non-availability of cash import licences and the dependence on wage earners' scheme and XPL this year.

Private Sector's Suggestion

The concrete suggestions made by the representatives of the private sector for "reactivation of the economy" in the conference at Chittagong include: (a) withdrawal of licence fee at the time of opening of letters of credit, (b) withdrawal of restrictions on commodity-wise imports (c) rationalisation of import licencing in the industrial categories on the basis of payment of excise duties, (d) allowing import of second hand clothings C.I. sheets, edible, clothes and petroleum under XPL scheme, (e) approval of new industrial units only on the basis of concrete assessment of the country's demand, and (f) rationalisation of income tax for making investments more secure for the investors.

How soon and to what extent the government moves now along the suggested lines will not by itself be of much significance in the present context. The severe marketing constraints, low purchasing power of the common people, severe unemployment situation, lull in investment activities, depressed level of earnings for agricultural cash crops, institutional and other structural rigidities etc. will certainly call for more direct and effective action beyond the traditional orthodoxies and dogmas in their different variants to pull the economy out of its crisis, on its domestic front and international setting.

The level of productive investments in sectors having optimum growth potentials will meanwhile continue to determine critically the possible turnabout of the economy. And here the possibilities for the immediate future under the present set of circumstances are not quite promising with a clear dichotomy prevailing in the domain of policy pronouncements and concrete action.

Dhaka Chamber

The president of Dhaka chamber of commerce and industry while reviewing the prospects for new private sector investments within the economy told this correspondent that the transformation of private trading capital into industrial capital would take more time. He felt that the build-up of more mature confidence among the potential private investors would be necessary at this stage.

Mr Sattar, president of the chamber, observed that the marketing constraints both at home and abroad posed severe bottleneck to new investment activities. At a time when the existing owners of productive industrial enterprises are finding it difficult to sell their products, it is difficult to expect that new investors would come up with fresh units, he noted. He highlighted the need for ensuring remunerative prices to the growers of agricultural cash crops and stepping up development activities in the rural sector to boost the income earnings for the common people.

About the new investments with the black money declared under MLR-V, the DCC & I chief said that bulk of such money would be going for BMR projects in private sector industries

Among the persisting bottlenecks on the way of new private investments, he identified high interest rates, lack of adequate cash (both in local and foreign currencies) with the financial institutions, bureaucratic red-tapism in translating policies into concrete action, absence of proper facilities for total evaluation of projects prior to sanction and approval etc as having the dampening effects.

Textile and Jute Mills

Meanwhile, some Bangladeshi owners of textile mills who recently got back their mills under the disinvestment policy told me that the operational performance in their mills had recorded steady improvement after they had taken over those mills. They, however, felt that the procedural formalities for the import of raw cotton by the private sector mills under the similar concessionary facilities for those under the public sector should be made easier to ensure their continued operation along profitable lines.

Bangladesh textile mills corporation has recently released unutilised foreign exchange fund to the tune of 28.6 crore taka in the form of IDA loan/USSR barter for allocation among the disinvested textile mills. This small quantity will be sufficient for running of 22 de-nationalised textile mills just for hardly two months. One of the owners of such mills pointed out while noting that unless prompt action was taken for further allocation and arrangement of funds, there would be a risk of mills facing closure.

In the de-nationalised jute mills, the performance in hessian has recorded some improvement with reasonable cash flows to the mills. But the performance in broad loom and carpet-backing sector seems yet unsatisfactory due to external marketing constraints, according to knowledgeable circles.

CSG: 4600/1758

REPORTAGE ON GENERAL ERSHAD'S VISIT TO KUWAIT

1 Feb Press Conference

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] KUWAIT, Feb. 1--The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad tonight said that Bangladesh would continue to work in close cooperation with the Muslim countries to uphold the cause of the Islamic world and to strengthen the solidarity of Muslim Ummah, reports BSS

Addressing a Press conference here at the Salam Palace he said Bangladesh being an active member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference would work for closer relations among the Muslim countries.

Gen Ershad referred to Bangladesh efforts to bring an end to the fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq as a member of the OIC Peace Committee and asserted that the war should end immediately, adding, he said, Bangladesh would pursue its efforts in that direction.

On Palestine issue the CMLA said that the problems must be solved giving right to have a state for the Palestinians. Peace must be achieved in west Asia for stability of the countries and people of the area and for the sustenance of peace in the world, he observed.

About his country's stand on the Afghan issue, the CMLA reiterated that the foreign troops there must be withdrawn and the Afghan people should be allowed to decide their own frame of government. On a question about Bangladesh viewpoint on the escalation of superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean, Gen Ershad said that Bangladesh had always advocated for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

On a report that Bangladesh had been negotiating between the Arab countries and United Kingdom to normalise their relations the CMLA said, 'I don't know what will be the comment It shall be happy to see the relations good'.

Replying to a question as to what would be the role of Bangladesh in the forthcoming Non-aligned summit in New Delhi and what subjects might come up there for discussion the CMLA said that many subjects would come up.

Gen. Ershad said that the Government of Bangladesh through major reforms in various fields like administration judiciary and education had been working to pave the way for rapid economic progress.

He said that the colonial administration had been decentralised and now taken to the doorsteps of the people to associate them with the administration and development activities and also make the beginning of the process for restoration of democracy

With the election at the thana level the process of restoration of democracy would set in before the democratically elected government is installed at the centre he explained.

Replying to another question he said that political parties had not been banned in Bangladesh rather their activities had been suspended. He said "When the election will be held they will be welcomed to participate".

Gen. Ershad referred to the return of industries to former Bangladeshi owners and also disinvestment of some industries and said that with the participation of the private sector on a greater scale, the national economy would surely find a leap forward.

Replying to a question, CMLA said that the industries were nationalised in 1972 with out considering the capability of running those and added, now the industries were restored to its former owners and surely they would come forward in a bigger way to help improve the economy. In this context, he described the facilities offered by his government for setting up joint venture projects in Bangladesh with support from foreign investments.

He expressed his confidence that national economy would be boosted with the strengthening of the private sector.

He said that Bangladesh would be made self-sufficient in all sectors if the efforts taken by the government could be continued. "We want to depend less and less on foreign assistance and foreign aid. We want to be self-sufficient in all sectors he said adding "that is why for the time being we require assistance from our brotherly Muslim countries to help build our economic infrastructure".

The CMLA referred to his talks with the Amir of Kuwait and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and said that the talks with them were very fruitful and were held in utmost cordiality. He hoped that his visit will further deepen and strengthen the fraternal bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Kuwait and solidarity of Muslim Ummah.

He expressed his gratitude to the Amir of Kuwait and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for the hospitality they had shown to him and his entourage during his visit here.

Text of Communique

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh and Kuwait today expressed their common desire to enhance and develop the relations between the two countries and widen the areas of their cooperation in various fields for mutual benefit, reports BSS.

A joint communique issued simultaneously from Dhaka and Kuwait at the end of the Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad's three-day official visit to Kuwait, said that the two sides noted with satisfaction the "positive results" of the visit.

It said that the two sides affirmed the importance of continuing consultations and meetings between the two friendly countries at various levels.

The two countries affirmed the importance of strengthening the solidarity and cooperation amongst the Islamic countries and peoples and pledged to continue their adherence to the principles of the charter of the Islamic Conference Organisation.

The communique said the two sides expressed their conviction that the maintenance of security and stability of the Gulf area is the responsibility of its own states without any foreign interference. They also expressed their deep concern at the continued armed conflict between Iraq and Iran and hoped that a peaceful solution for this problem would be reached soon.

It said that the official talks between Gen. Ershad and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al-Sabah were held in a most cordial and fraternal atmosphere. The talks dealt with the excellent relations existing between the two brotherly countries and the international issues of mutual interest.

While reviewing the dangerous and explosive situation in the Middle East, the two sides reaffirmed their conviction that just and durable peace in the area cannot be realised without the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem and the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people including its right to establish its own homeland.

They stressed the continued support for the PLO, the sole and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, and the necessity of the PLO participation in all efforts made for reaching a durable and just peace in the Middle East.

The two countries expressed their strong condemnation of the continued illegal occupation and aggressive Israeli practices against Lebanon and continuous Israeli attempts to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs. They affirmed the need for supporting all the efforts for establishing peace and stability in Lebanon and the maintenance of its security, sovereignty independence and territorial integrity under its legitimate government.

The communique said Gen. Ershad briefed the Crown Prince on the overall situation in the South Asian region and particularly in Bangladesh, and on the initiatives of Bangladesh to improve relations with the neighbouring countries. In this connection, he also explained the progress achieved in regard to the sevenation South Asian cooperation forum.

The CMLA expressed his deep gratitude to the Crown Prince the government and the people of Kuwait for generous hospitality and warm and sincere reception accorded to him and the accompanying delegation during the visit.

Full Text

Following is the full text of the communique:

At the invitation of His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'ad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. His Excellency the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. Hussain Mohammad Ershad, paid an official visit to the state of Kuwait from 31st of January to 2nd of February, 1983. He was accompanied, among others, by His Excellency Mr. Aminur Rahman Shams-ud Doha, Foreign Minister and His Excellency Mr. Mahbubur Rahman Minister for Local Government.

The honourable guest and the accompanying delegation were received with a warm welcome that reflects the brotherly relations existing between the two Muslim countries.

In the course of the visit his Excellency Lt. Gen. Ershad was received in audience by H. H. the Amir and during this meeting he ronveyed to His Highness the best greetings of the Government and the people of Bangladesh.

The offical talks between H. E. Gen. Ershad and H. H. Sheikh Sa'ad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah were held in a most cordial and fraternal atmosphere. The talks dealt with the excellent relations existing between the two brotherly countries and the international issues of mutual interest.

The two sides asserted their common desire to enhance and develop the relations between the two countries and widen the areas of their cooperation in various fields for the benefit of both countries.

The two sides expressed their conviction that the maintenance of security and stability of the Gulf area is the responsibility of its own states without any foreign interference.

While reviewing the dangerous and explosive situation in the Middle East, the two sides reaffirmed their conviction that just and durable peace in the area cannot be realised without the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including the holy city of Jerusalem and the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people including its right to establish its own independent state in its own homeland. In this context the two sides stressed the continuing support for the PLO the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the necessity of the PLO's participation in all efforts made for reaching a durable and just peace in the Middle East.

Israeli Occupation Condemned

The Kuwaiti side expressed its appreciation for the supporting stands of the People's Republic of Bangladesh towards the Arab issues. The two sides expressed their strong condemnation of the continued illegal Israeli occupation and aggressive Israeli practices against Lebanon and the continuous Israeli attempts to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs. They have reaffirmed the need for supporting all the efforts for establishing peace and stability in Lebanon and the maintenance of its security, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity under its legitimate government.

The two sides expressed their deep concern at the continued armed conflict between Iraq and Iran and expressed their hope that a peaceful solution for this problem will be reached soon.

The two sides expressed their conviction that the maintenance of security and stability of the Gulf area is the responsibility of its own states without any foreign interference

While reviewing the dangerous and explosive situation in the Middle East, the two sides reaffirmed their conviction that just and durable peace in the area cannot be realised without the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including the holy city of Jerusalem and the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people including its right to establish its own homeland. In this context the two sides stressed the continuing support for the P.O.O. the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the necessity of the P.L.O.'s participation in all efforts made for reaching a durable and just peace in the Middle East.

The Kuwaiti side expressed its appreciation for the supporting stands of the People's Republic of Bangladesh towards the Arab issues. The two sides expressed their strong condemnation of the continued illegal Israeli occupation and aggressive Israeli practices against Lebanon and the continuous Israeli attempts to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs. They have reaffirmed the need for supporting all the efforts for establishing peace and stability in Lebanon and the maintenance of its security, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity under its legitimate government.

Concern Over Gulf War

The two sides expressed their deep concern at the continued armed conflict between Iraq and Iran and expressed their hope that a peaceful solution for this problem will be reached soon.

Both sides affirmed the importance of strengthening the solidarity and cooperation amongst the Islamic countries and peoples and pledged to continue their adherence to the principles of the charter of the Islamic Conference Organization.

H.E. Lt. Gen Ershad briefed His Highness on the overall situation in the South Asian region and particularly in Bangladesh and on the initiatives of

Bangladesh to improve relations with the neighbouring countries. In this connection he also explained the progress achieved in regard to the seven-nation South Asian cooperation forum.

His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah showed deep interest in the exposition of Bangladesh efforts in this direction.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the positive results of this visit and affirmed the importance of continuing consultations and meetings between the two friendly countries at various levels.

H.E. Lt. Gen. Hussain Mohammed Ershad expressed his deep gratitude to His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Shaikh Sa'ad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah Government and people of Kuwait for the generous hospitality and warm and sincere reception accorded to His Excellency and the accompanying delegation during the visit

H.E. Lt. Gen. Hussain Mohammed Ershad the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh, extended an invitation to His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah to pay a visit to Bangladesh. The invitation was gratefully accepted and the date of the visit will be determined at a later time.

CSO: 4600/1753

REPORTAGE ON GENERAL ERSHAD'S VISIT TO MOROCCO

Speech at 3 Feb Banquet

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] RABAT, Feb. 4--The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad, has expressed Bangladesh's determination to pursue an independent foreign policy "based on our abiding commitment" to the objectives and principles of Organisation of Islamic Conference the Non-aligned Movement and the charter of the United Nations, states BSS.

"We firmly believe that it is through consistent effort to uphold these noble principles that a more peaceful, secure and equitable world order can be established," the CMLA said in his speech delivered in Bangla at a banquet hosted in his honour last night by Prime Minister Mr. Maati Bouabid.

General Ershad, who arrived here Wednesday on a five-day official visit, said that both Bangladesh and Morocco shared a similarity of views on many international issues. As members of the OIC, the two countries have all along been coordinating their efforts to uphold the causes and interests of the Muslim world, he said adding "We shall continue to work for the unity and solidarity of the Islamic ummah"

General Ershad referred to the imperative need for structuring of the world economic system and said that a new international economic order, based on equity and justice, should be established without further delay. The world today is beset with the problems of poverty, hunger and disease, he said adding the existing global economic structure is clearly unable to meet the needs of the contemporary world.

On the explosive situation in the Middle East, the CMLA said that it had assumed an alarming magnitude because of Israel's aggression against and continued occupation of Lebanon. Bangladesh, he said, firmly believe that an enduring peace in the Middle East can be established only on the basis of total and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, realisation of the legitimate national rights of Palestine people and restoration of Jerusalem to the Arab Islamic sovereignty

In this connection, the CMLA welcomed the Arab peace plan as a sound basis for establishing durable peace in the area.

The banquet was attended, among others, by the Foreign Minister, A.R. Shams-ud Doha and the Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister, Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Moroccan Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps.

The following is the text of speech of Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen. H.M. Ershad, delivered at the banquet hosted by Mr Maati Bouabib, Prime Minister of Morocco in his honour in Rabat on February 3.

YOUR EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER MAATI B UABUD,
EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

I am deeply touched by your kind words about me and my country. This no doubt underlines the bonds of friendship and amity that exist between our two brotherly countries Bangladesh and Morocco. I am grateful for the warmth of welcome, love and affection shown to me and the members of my delegation since our arrival in the Kingdom.

EXCELLENCY.

Our two people are bound together by the traditional ties rooted in our shared history, religion and culture. We recall that first direct contact between the two countries was established by the famous traveller Ibn Batuta in the 14th century when this great man arrived in our country with a message of peace and friendship from what was then considered the other end of the globe. Your great country has witnessed the march of history through the centuries and as a repository of the Islamic heritage in North Africa, it had always been and remains a unique meeting place of the Islamic, Mediterranean and African civilisations.

EXCELLENCY.

The world today is passing through a critical period. The Islamic world can and should play its role in the cause of peace and development. To achieve this objective what is most needed is to further strengthen the unity and solidarity of the Islamic Ummah. In this connection, the singular personal contribution of His Majesty King Hassan II in mobilizing the Muslim world and upholding the Palestinian cause is deeply appreciated by all of us.

Despite His Majesty's heavy preoccupations, he has been gracious enough to chair the sessions of the Al-Quds Committee. His Majesty's crucial and dynamic role in guiding the deliberations of the Al-Quds Summit Committee, with which Bangladesh has had the honour to be associated, has earned him the admiration of the entire Islamic Ummah. We pledge our total support to His Majesty to continue the determined struggle for the liberation of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

EXCELLENCY.

The new Government in Bangladesh has devoted its fullest attention to the challenging task of nation-building. The fundamental objective of all the

measures recently undertaken is to generate strength and stability through self-reliant efforts of the people in all spheres of national life. To strengthen the process we have launched a programme of administrative reorganisation and decentralisation designed to take the administration to rural Bangladesh and our 68,000 villages where over 90 per cent of our people live.

In the economic sphere, Bangladesh as one of the Least Developed Countries has suffered seriously from the adverse external factors stemming from global recession and unfavourable trade and aid environment. We have taken care in formulating our development programmes giving priority to the vital areas of Agriculture, Population Planning Energy and Primary and Technical Education. It is our firm belief that through sustained efforts and pragmatic approach the vicious cycle of economic stagnation would be broken to allow tangible benefits to our people.

EXCELLENCE.

We have been watching with great admiration the tremendous strides made by your great country towards progress and prosperity under the wise and dynamic leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II. We wish you all success in this regard.

Bangladesh is committed to the principles of sovereign equality of nations, respect for territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, non-use of force or the threat of use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes. We are determined to pursue an independent foreign policy based on our abiding commitment to the objectives and principles of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Non-aligned Movement and the Charter of the United Nations. We firmly believe that it is through consistent efforts to uphold these noble principles that a more peaceful, secure and equitable world order can be ushered in.

It gives us great satisfaction to note that our two brotherly countries share a similarity of views on many of the international issues. As fellow members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, we have all along been coordinating our efforts to uphold the causes and interests of the Muslim World. We will continue to work for the unity and solidarity of the Islamic Ummah.

The world is now beset with the problems of poverty, hunger and disease. The existing global economic structure is clearly unable to meet the needs of the contemporary world. We feel that a restructuring of the world economic system is a worldwide imperative need. A New International Economic Order, based on equity and justice, should therefore, be established without further delay.

Our regards to.

The situation in the Middle East remains explosive. It has assumed an alarming dimension because of Israel's aggression against and continued occupation of Lebanon. We firmly believe that an enduring peace in the Middle East can be established only on the basis of total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the Holy City of Jerusalem,

realisation of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to have an independent state in their own homeland under the leadership of the PLO their sole and legitimate representative and the restoration of Jerusalem to the Arab and Islamic sovereignty. We welcome the Arab Peace Plan as a sound basis for establishing durable peace in the area.

We are deeply concerned by the continuing war between Iran and Iraq, two brotherly Islamic countries. This fratricidal war has been causing great harm not only to Iran and Iraq, but also to the entire Islamic Ummah and poses a threat to peace and security in the region. We earnestly appeal to Iran and Iraq for an immediate cessation of hostilities and pledge our support to all efforts to bring about an honourable and peaceful solution of this conflict without delay.

Another area of great tension is Afghanistan. The continued presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan has posed a great danger to peace and stability in the region. We reiterate our call for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan to enable the people of Afghanistan to determine freely their own destiny without outside intervention or interference. Excellency, we hold identical views for a resolution of the Kampuchean problem.

We have always been opposed to imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racialism and domination in any form or manifestation. We have consistently condemned the apartheid policy of South Africa and her aggression against the neighbouring countries. We reiterate our total support to the heroic peoples in South Africa and Namibia in their just struggle for freedom and justice.

For us, peace is indispensable for development. During the ten months that the new Government has been in office we have consistently endeavoured to lay a solid foundation of peace in our region based on goodwill, trust and understanding. In this context, I am happy to state that significant progress has been achieved in implementing the proposal for a structured, multi-sectoral regional cooperation among the seven nations of the South Asian region. We are confident that this initiative of Bangladesh will soon take a concrete shape ensuring peaceful and harmonious cooperation to the mutual benefit of all the countries in our region.

In conclusion I wish to express our profound gratitude to Your Excellency once again for your gracious welcome and generous hospitality. May I now request Your Excellencies and the distinguished guests to join me in a toast: to the health, happiness and long life of His Majesty King Hassan II; to the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of the Kingdom of Morocco; and to the everlasting friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Morocco.

Report on 6 Feb Banquet Speech

Thaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] RABAT, Feb 6--The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad last night expressed the conviction that Bangladesh-Morocco talks would

significantly contribute to further concerting the efforts at promoting the Arab and Islamic cause and also the cause of non-alignment and developing countries, reports BSS.

Speaking at the return Banquet hosted by him in honour of the Moroccan Prime Minister, Mr. Maati Bouabid here at a hotel, the CMLA referred to his discussions with King Hassan II of Morocco and said that his (Kings) role as the Chairman of the Al-Quds summit committee in providing necessary thrust and focus to this crucial issue had earned him admiration of all.

The CMLA expressed his gratitude on his own behalf and on behalf of the people of Bangladesh for decorating him with the Grand Order of the Throne by King Hassan yesterday.

He also referred to his discussions with Mr Bouabid covering the whole range of international issues and the matters relating to bilateral relations and expressed his confidence that their deliberations would greatly contribute to further consolidation of the deep bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Gen. Ershad said that Bangladesh and Morocco were bound together by common religious historical and cultural ties. The two countries also shared common values and aspirations, he added.

He pointed out that like Morocco, his country was currently engaged in a determined effort at social and economic development and improving the lot of the common man and said 'My visit has enabled me to derive benefit from your rich experience in dealing with the problems of development'.

He also said that throughout his visit to Morocco he had found a tremendous sense of affection and goodwill among the people for the brethren in Bangladesh. We will long cherish the memory of the visit he added.

General Ershad hoped that the Moroccan Prime Minister would visit Bangladesh at an early date and said, "This will enable you to see for yourself the high esteem in which King Hassan II is held by our people and the great fund of goodwill and brotherly feeling that exist in Bangladesh for the people of our great country".

The banquet was attended, among others; by the Foreign Minister, Mr. A. R. Khan; the Local Government; Rural Development and Cooperative Minister, Mr. Manubur Rahman; Moroccan Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps.

Text of Joint Communique

BAHANGSH OBSERVER in English 8 Feb 83 p 4

Following is the text of Bangladesh-Morocco Joint Communique issued on the conclusion of the official visit of the Chief Martial Law Administrator of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Morocco, from February 2 to 8, 1983.

"At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Maati Bouabid Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, His Excellency Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammed Ershad, ndc psc Chief Martial Law Administrator of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco from February 2 to February 6, 1983. Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammed Ershad was accompanied by His Excellency Mr. Aminur Rahman Shams-ud Doha, the Foreign Minister His Excellency Minister for Local Government and other high ranking officials of the Government of Bangladesh.

On arrival the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh and the members of his delegation were accorded a warm and fraternal welcome reflecting the close and brotherly relations existing between the two countries.

During the visit the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh was received in audience by His Majesty King Hassan". He also placed a wreath and offered fateha at the mausoleum of late King Mohammed. Formal official talks were held between the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh and the Prime Minister of Morocco covering a wide range of bilateral, regional and international matters. The discussions which were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere reflected a close similarity of views on a number of issues of common concern.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh and Prime Minister of Morocco reaffirmed the common desire to further expand and consolidate the fraternal relations between the two countries in all fields. They also explored the possibility of increasing the volume of trade and economic cooperation between Morocco and Bangladesh. During the visit the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh to Morocco, a cultural agreement was signed by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries providing for a framework for further cooperation in cultural and scientific fields. An agreed minute was also signed to indicate the various measures the two sides have decided to undertake with a view to strengthening further cooperation in commercial and industrial spheres.

While reviewing the global political and economic situation, the two leaders emphasised the need for promoting and strengthening international peace and security based on principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in disputes.

They stressed the need for strict adherence to the principles and objectives of the Charter, the Non-aligned movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The two leaders emphasised the imperative necessity for solidarity and cooperation among the Islamic countries. They advocate active and fruitful co-operation amongst the members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The two leaders reviewed the situation in the Middle East and expressed grave concern at the continuing grave tension in the area. They condemned the continued Zionist aggression against the Arab people and its forcible and illegal occupation of Arab lands. They strongly condemned the annexation of the holy

city of Al-Quds by the Zionist entity in violation of the decisions of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly

They also condemned Israel's aggression against and continued occupation of Lebanon and the massacre committed in Sabra and Chatila camps. They reiterated that a just and permanent solution of the Middle East problem could be achieved only on the basis of the immediate and complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories, including the holy city of Al-Quds and the realisation of the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including the right to establish an independent state in their homeland under the leadership of PLO, the sole and legitimate representative. The two leaders strongly reiterated the demand that further settlements in West Bank and Zaza Strip by the Israelis should be stopped forthwith. The two sides considered the Arab peace plan adopted at the Arab summit of Fez under the wise chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II. Bangladesh side reaffirmed her support to this Arab peace plan of Fez as providing for a reasonable concrete and just basis for a solution to the Palestinian and Middle East problem.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh expressed his deep admiration for the crucial role of His Majesty King Hassan II. In so ably guiding the complex task of the Al-Quds Committee and reiterated Bangladesh's total and unflinching support to the sacred struggle for regaining Islamic sovereignty over Al-Quds Al-Sharif. He also lauded the purposeful and dynamic leadership provided by His Majesty King Hassan II as the Chairman of the Al-Quds Summit Committee with which Bangladesh has been associated His Excellency Mr. Maati Bouabid lauded the consistent and constructive support of Bangladesh to this sacred cause.

The Prime Minister of Morocco explained about the tension in the North-West African region. Bangladesh side deeply appreciated the positive and courageous initiative of his Majesty King Hassan II in 18 summit of the O.A.U held in Nairobi. Bangladesh side indicated support for this salution that respected historical reality and justice.

The two leaders voiced their deep concern at the continued Iran-Iraq conflict and urged the two fraternal Islamic nations to put an immediate end to the hostilities and resolve their disputes through peaceful means.

The two leaders reiterated their support for the struggle of the people of Africa, Asia and Latin America against imperialism, colonialism; neo-colonialism racial discrimination and apartheid. They expressed their concern at the situation in Southern Africa and people against the minority racist regimes for the transfer of power to the true representatives of the peoples of Namibia and Southern Africa. They condemned the illegal racist regime in South Africa for their aggression against the neighbouring countries for the policy of apartheid followed by them.

The two sides expressed their grave concern over the present situation in Afghanistan. They reaffirmed the need for a political solution of the problem on the basis of withdrawal of foreign troops from that country and the

creation of conditions to enable the Afghan people to determine freely their own destiny without any external interference or intervention. The two sides also expressed their concern about the situation in Kampuchea and stressed the need for withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country and to enable the people of Kampuchea to decide their destiny freely without outside interference.

Reviewing the continuing deterioration in the international economic situation that has recently assumed serious proportions the two sides reiterated the need for the immediate launching of the global negotiations. They emphasized the need for a continuous dialogue and for concrete and effective measures for resolving the problems of the developing countries. They also stressed upon the necessity of re-inforcement of the South South dialogue. They called for early implementation of the substantial new programme of action for the least developed countries. In this context, Moroccan side expressed their deep appreciation for the role being played by Bangladesh as the current Chairman of the Group of 77, the two sides expressed their desire to continue to work in close cooperation in this vital forum.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the steady development of relations between the two brotherly countries, Bangladesh and Morocco. They however felt that there was further scope of cooperation between the two countries and in this context, agreed to establish a joint commission at ministerial level to suggest ways and means to promote such cooperation.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator apprised the Prime Minister of Morocco about the current developments in South Asia and in particular, in Bangladesh. He also referred to the initiative of Bangladesh towards improving and strengthening her relations with the neighbouring countries through active multi-sectoral cooperation among the countries of the South Asian region. His Excellency Mr. Matti Bouabid expressed admiration for these endeavours of the Bangladesh leader undertaken with a view to promoting peace, cooperation and harmonious relations among the countries of the region.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H M Ershad expressed his deep gratitude for the cordial reception and warm hospitality accorded to him and to the members of his delegation during the visit. He extended a very cordial invitation to his Excellency Mr. Maati Bouabid, Prime Minister to visit Bangladesh at his convenience.

The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Cultural Accord Signed

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] RABAT, Feb 6--Bangladesh and Morocco yesterday signed a cultural and scientific agreement for expanding the cooperation between the two countries in these fields, reports BSS.

The agreement provides for exchange of delegations of trade culture and education between the two countries over and above establishment of more closer relationship between them.

Besides, the two sides, during the visit of the Chief Martial Law Administrator here also signed an agreed minute of cooperation.

CSO: 4600/1761

GENERAL ERSHAD MEETS WITH MITTERRAND IN PARIS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 8 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] PARIS, Feb. 7--The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H M Ershad had a 40-minute exclusive meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Flysee Palace here today, reports BSS.

The two leaders had a broad discussion on important international issues, particularly the North-South Dialogue, the Non-aligned Movement and the Middle-East problem.

The talks were held in a free and frank atmosphere marked by cordiality.

The situation in Bangladesh and the tempo of the country's development came in for special attention. The French President proposed to keeping direct contact with the CMLA.

President Mitterrand said that in a week's time he will be sending an important minister to Bangladesh.

The CMLA extended an invitation to French Presiednt Mitterrand to visit Bangladesh which the latter gladly accepted.

A suitable date for the visit would be worked out through diplomatic channel.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H M Ershad returns home this morning Tuesday after concluding his four-nation tour of Kuwait Morocco, France and Jordan, reports BSS.

During his visit to these countries, Gen. Ershad held talks with the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, King Hassan II of Morocco, President Francois Mitterrand of France and King Hussain of Jordan.

CSO: 4600/1765

REPORT ON GENERAL ERSHAD'S VISIT TO AMMAN

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Feb 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] AMMAN, Feb 8--The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad and King Hussein of Jordan Monday held talks at the Royal Court here covering international, regional and bilateral matters with particular reference to the Middle East situation, Palestinian question and Islamic solidarity, says BSS.

The hour-long talks were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality, frankness and friendship, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr. A. R. Shams-ud-Doha later told BSS.

The Foreign Minister said immediately after receiving Gen. Ershad at the Royal Court of Bassam Palace, King Hussein went into a conference with the Bangladesh leader.

During the talks, King Hussein apprised the CMLA of the situation "in this region" and the serious crisis facing the Muslim world arising out of the Israeli aggression.

King Hussein, in a clear exposition; also discussed the effects of the Iran-Iraq war and the impacts of the seven-member peace mission which he led to Peking and Paris with regard to the Arab peace plan.

The two leaders also discussed a wide range of other important issues and bilateral matters.

Genl Ershad, at the talks; briefly outlined the development efforts undertaken in Bangladesh through various reforms and the progress attained in different fields.

The CMLA told the Jordanian Monarch about the results of his visits to Kuwait, Morocco and France and also of his earlier visits to Saudi Arabia, India; Nepal and China.

Bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Jordan also figured prominently in the talks and the two leaders decided to expand the base of cooperation in all areas immediately.

Gen. Ershad extended invitation to the King and the Queen to visit Bangladesh and they accepted it.

The CMLA at the talks was assisted by Foreign Minister Mr. A. R. Shams-ud Doha Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia who is also accredited to Jordan, Mr. Mohammad Mohsin, Director General at the Foreign Office--Syed Mohammad Hossain and Mr. Mahbubul Alam.

King Hussein's aides included Prime Minister Mr. Mudar Badran and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Quasem.

The talks over, King Hussein and Gen. Ershad walked down the Palace corridor to the portico where the Jordanian Monarch bade farewell to the Bangladesh leader.

Looking satisfied with their talks, the two leaders warmly exchanged greetings in the traditional Arab style and shook hands before the CMLA boarded the car to undertake a straight drive to the airport.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran accompanied Gen. Ershad in a ceremonial motorcade to the Amman airport.

Mr. Badran gave a hearty farewell to Gen. Ershad by embracing him at the gangway of the Biman craft.

Earlier, on his arrival at the Amman International Airport, on the fourth and last leg of his four-nation tour, the CMLA was received at the Amman International Airport by Prime Minister of Jordan, Mr. Mudar Badran.

As Gen. Ershad disembarked from the Biman aircraft, he was received by the Prime Minister of Jordan. They warmly shook hands and exchanged greetings in traditional Arab style.

The CMLA was conducted to a decorated dais from where he took salute of guard of honour presented by a smartly turned out contingent of Jordanian Armed Forces as the national anthems of the two countries were played by the Army bands.

Gen. Ershad was taken to the presentation line and introduced to the Ministers and high officials of the Jordanian government.

The airport ceremony over, the CMLA accompanied by the Prime Minister drove in a ceremonial motorcade flanked by out-riders to the Bassam Palace.

Fruitful Discussion

Another BSS report from Amman adds:--The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad, on Monday described his talks with King Hussein of Jordan as "very fruitful"

Giving an airport interview to local news agency Petra and TV over the outcome of his talks with the King, the CMLA said that his talks with King Hussein

were held in utmost cordiality and fraternal feelings. He said "we hold King Hussein in a very high esteem in our country."

To a question as to what he thought about the Arab countries' support to the Palestinian question and the Arab issue, Gen. Ershad said "King Hussein is playing a very vital role towards achieving these objectives. With strong leadership, unity and better understanding among the Muslim countries we can resolve this problem (Palestine) and all outstanding issues facing the Islamic world".

Replying to another question about Bangladesh stand in regard to the Middle East question the CMLA said that his country was committed to Islamic solidarity. "We are a member of the OIC, Islamic peace Mission and the Al-Quds Al-Shareef Committee and we are trying to play our role and Inshaallah, if we all can strive we can surely find a solution" he added.

CSO: 4600/1764

ERSHAD TALKS TO PRESS ON RETURN FROM TOUR ABROAD

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Feb 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. General H.M. Ershad said his Government would not tolerate a violent situation in the university campus anymore.

The General was talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his return from an eight-day tour abroad.

Asked to comment on the recent violent clash of students at the Dhaka University, the CMLA said that such incidents had become almost a regular affair. He warned, "We will not tolerate anymore such situation in the campus or elsewhere."

In this regard General Ershad made a mention of the widespread despair and frustration among the students and said, "We want do to something for the students as a whole because we all are responsible for the present situation."

When his attention was drawn to the press statement of former President and BNP Chairman Justic Abdus Sattar urging return of power to an elected government, the General paused for a while and said his Government would consider if he (Sattar) could return in elections.

The CMLA said that none was taken to Jail on political ground, so the question of amnesty did not arise.

Asked to comment on warming up of the political climate in these cold wintry days he said "some people are keen on issuing statements but they do not want to work at all, as you all have seen. Their activities remained concentrated in issuing statements alone."

But the General warned taht his government wou d firmly deal with any chaos.

The CMLA did not agree that economic situation had worsened in the country during his government's one-year rule adding, "What we have done in 12 months, could not be done in the last one decade."

In this regard he said in the rural areas 'food for work' programme was going ahead in full swing now days unlike the past.

Replying to another question on the 'Jehad' that he had launched against corruption soon after his takeover of the government, he said it was on and he kept telling people in the countryside during his frequent tours about it. He also sought everybody's active cooperation in this regard.

General Ershad described his visits to Kuwait, Morocco, France and Jordan as "fruitful and successful" as he had elaborate discussions with the leaders of those countries.

He said bilateral relations with those countries would further be improved and economic cooperation with them would be expanded.

Kuwait Talks Fruitful

BSS adds: Gen Ershad, who visited Kuwait on the first leg of his four-nation tour, said that he had free and frank discussions with the Amir of Kuwait and the Crown Prince covering bilateral, regional and international issues including OIC, Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East situation.

He said, the talks were held in a "friendly atmosphere".

The CMLA said, Kuwait had agreed to extend further economic cooperation and pointed out that an economic and trade delegation from Kuwait would soon come to Bangladesh.

He appreciated the various developments that took place in Kuwait within a short period.

Gen Ershad said that he had invited both the Amir Sheikh Sabah al Ahmed al Sabah and the Crown Prince Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al Sabah to visit Bangladesh and hoped they would come here soon.

Exclusive Meet

Gen Ershad said that in Morocco he had an "exclusive meeting" with King Hassan II and had talks with Prime Minister Maati Bouabid on matters of mutual interest.

He said both Bangladesh and Morocco were the members of Al-Quds committee and al-Quds summit and as such the situation in the Middle East with particular reference to Lebanese crisis and Iraq-Iran war came up for discussions during his talks with King Hassan.

Referring to the conferring of the "grand order of the crown" on him by the King of Morocco, the CMLA said that it was for the first time that such an honour was accorded to a Bangladeshi leader. This, he said, would begin a new chapter in the friendly relations between the two countries.

Gen. Ershad pointed out that there was much scope for cooperation between Bangladesh and Morocco in various fields. The two countries, he said, had signed cultural and technical agreements during his visit.

He said, a trade delegation from Morocco would visit Bangladesh soon to identify the areas of cooperation.

French Assistance

The CMLA indicated the possibility of opening a residential mission in Morocco.

Turning to his brief visit to Franch Gen Ershad said that he had an hour long meeting with President Mitterrand. This meeting, he said, would usher in a new era in the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

He said that the French President had shown his deep concern for the people of Bangladesh and informed him that a French minister would visit Bangladesh to identify the areas for assistance.

Gen. Ershad recalled the French support during Bangladesh's war of liberation and said that Franch had always played an important role in upholding the cause of the third world countries.

CSO: 4600/1766

ENERGY MINISTER, UN REPRESENTATIVE HOLD TALKS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh will assist any international forum in its efforts to rationalise the process of technology transfer between the developed and the developing nations, reports BSS.

This was informed by the DCMLA and Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud to the delegation led by the Chairman of Energy Mission of North-South Round Table and Special Envoy of UN Secretary General Mr. Maurice F. Strong when he and his entourage called on the Minister at his office on Wednesday.

The delegation discussed at length the energy planning and development in Bangladesh and acquainted themselves with various steps taken by the government in harnessing the untapped resources.

While the discussion evolved around some of the ways of providing financial aids for prospective schemes. In the energy sector, the importance of the immense burden of procuring petroleum products and the cost intensive programme of exploration and development of energy sources, both renewable and non-renewable were emphasised upon by the Minister.

The DCMLA said, in a country, where only about four per cent of population can enjoy the benefits of electricity and gas, Bangladesh is indeed concerned both in conserving the little energy that it can generate and stressed a very high priority in the development process.

He assured the delegation that the Bangladesh has put the priority of energy sector after agriculture and family planning.

Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud deeply appreciated the efforts of the delegation in their endeavours to assist the developing countries and hoped that the visit will sufficiently equip them with the knowledge to propel a new thought process amongst the nation of North and the South.

CSO: 4600/1753

YOUTH LEADER SCORES INDIAN PROPOSAL ON CANAL

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Democratic Youth Front and Democratic Students League, two front organisations of Democratic League, have criticised the link canal proposal put forward by India and expressed their grave concern over the abrupt end of the meeting without any decision.

In a statement yesterday A.S.M. Enamul Haq, president and Ehsanul Haq Selim, General Secretary of the Youth Front, accuse India of adopting delaying tactics regarding the Farakka, border and Ialpatty disputes. They also urged the government to take the issue to the international forum for immediate settlement of the disputes. The youth leaders also criticised the Government of India for creating economic and political pressures on Bangladesh.

They also called for the unity of the democratic and anti-hegemonist forces to observe "Ekushey" unitedly.

In a separate statement Abdur Razzak Hiru President and Saifudding Ahmed Moni, General Secretary of Democratic Students League deplored the link canal proposal and announced their programme in protest against the Indian stand on Farakka.

CSO: 4600/1759

PRESS REPORTS OUTCOME OF JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION TALKS

Press Release on Talks

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] The first session of the 24th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) was adjourned in Dhaka on Friday stressing the urgent need for the Joint Committee of Experts of the JRC to expeditiously complete its assigned task. The adjourned meeting of the JRC will resume in New Delhi on February 22 and continue till February 25.

A joint Press release issued after the adjournment of the first session of the 24th meeting of the JRC said that the discussions of the meeting, extending over several rounds, were held in a "cordial atmosphere marked by a spirit of goodwill and understanding: Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, Minister in-charge of Irrigation of India led the Indian delegation while his Bangladesh counterpart Agriculture Minister Mr. A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan who is also the Chairman of the JRC led the Bangladesh side in the meeting. The Indian leader read out the joint Press release to newsmen at a joint Press briefing at the State Guest House.

Following is the text of the Joint Press release.

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was held in Dhaka from 2-4 February, 1983. His Excellency Mr. A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan, Minister of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairman of the Joint Rivers Commission presided over the meeting. His Excellency Sri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Minister-in charge of Irrigation, Government of the Republic of India and the Co-Chairman of the Commission led the Indian delegation.

The Joint Rivers Commission held wide-ranging discussions extending over several rounds in a cordial atmosphere marked by a spirit of goodwill and understanding.

The Commission reviewed the progress made by the Joint Committee of Experts set up during the 23rd meeting of the JRC in December 1982 to draft the Terms of Reference and to prepare a work-schedule with specific date lines for the pre-feasibility studies of the schemes which had been proposed by either side

for augmenting the dry season flows of the Ganges at Farakka. Taking into account the time limit prescribed in the Memorandum of Understanding signed during the Summit meeting in October 1982 the JRC underscored the urgent need for the Joint Committee of Experts to expeditiously complete the task assigned to them.

In-depth discussions took place on the determination of a formula for the sharing of the waters of the Teesta. Recognising the need for an expeditious determination of an adhoc sharing formula the JRC reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments in this regard made at the 22nd meeting of the JRC on 31st August 1982 and reiterated at the Summit Meeting on 7th October 1982 as also at the 23rd meeting of the JRC on 24th December 1982.

The JRC noted that discussions have been held between the Secretaries of the Ministries concerned on working out necessary modalities for implementing the provision of the Memorandum of Understanding relating to exceptionally low flows and underlined the urgent need to finalise their work at an early date.

In view of shortage of time the Commission decided to adjourn the first session of the Twenty Fourth Meeting of the JRC on Friday 4th February 1983 and to resume the discussions in a second session to be held in New Delhi from February 22-25 1983.

Leaders Meet with Press

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh and India on Friday adjourned the 24th meeting of Joint Rivers Commission till February 22 to resume in Delhi to continue the efforts and fix the modalities of studying their schemes for augmenting dry season Ganges flows, reports BSS.

The two delegation leaders the Agriculture Minister Mr. Obaidullah Khan and the Indian State Minister for Irrigation Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha told a Press conference at the State Guest House Meghna that they were optimistic about finding 'a common approach' to the 'complex problem' in the resumed session.

Mr Mirdha read out a joint Press release issued at the end of the three-day discussions.

Describing the three-day talks as the first session of the 24th meeting the two leaders said the meeting had to be adjourned in view of shortage of time. The resumed discussions which will take place in the Indian capital from February 22 to 25 was described by them as the second session of the 24th meeting of JRC.

The two Ministers also expressed the hope that the resumed session would also be able to provide a formula for sharing the Teesta waters on an ad-hoc basis.

Asked the reason for adjourning the meeting instead of continuing the talks in Dhaka in search of the common ground for fixing the modalities for the

pre-feasibility studies of the two sides' schemes on the Ganges Mr. Mirdha said 'We are here on a pre-arranged programme. Some points need further considerations, so we are adjourning to resume the talks.'

He said the Joint Committee of Experts would also meet simultaneously in New Delhi during the resumed session to continue the efforts for fixing the modalities.

Both Mr. Khan and Mr. Mirdha said that there were many areas where the two sides agreed while some others required further exploration and discussions.

'We thought' Mr. Mirdha said 'that one more meeting would be able to tie up some of the loose ends' for reaching a common position.

Mr. Khan said that the meeting resumes in 18 days' time and hoped that before the current month was out 'we can present something to our Governments'.

Describing the task of fixing the modalities as a complex question 'Mr. Khan said it had already been 'worked out to an extent'.

He hoped 'a more clear picture' would emerge after the resumed session. He said 'a number of areas need further working out.'

Both delegation leaders refused to pinpoint the areas where common approach could be found or the others providing the difficulties.

Mr. Mirdha said it was difficult now to specify the difficult areas as the meeting continues.

Mr. Khan said to specify the difficult areas 'at the moment' would be 'pre-mature' and expressed the fear it would 'pre-empt' the situation.

Asked the reason for the Joint Committee of Experts efforts ending in a deadlock Mr. Mirdha said, 'We had different approaches, with various ramifications.'

But the Indian leader said, 'We are going back with a better understanding of the Bangladesh side.' So he hoped some tangible results would be possible 'when we meet next.'

Both the delegation leaders said that the issue was being attended with a sense of urgency.'

Reflecting an awareness of the mandate to conduct the pre-feasibility studies in 18 months' time beginning October 7 last, Mr. Mirdha said, 'We will do our best to find out a solution within the timeframe.'

Asked whether the adjournment of the meeting was indicative of the two sides' desire to take the Ganges issue out of JRC and send it again to the two heads of government when the Non-aligned summit takes place, Mr. Khan replied 'no'.

That's why Mr. Khan added the date for the resumed meeting had been fixed for February 22-25 which would be before the forthcoming summit. The ball is very much in our court he said adding, 'There was nothing to send the ball out of our court'.

The meeting, although scheduled to arrive at a solution to the Teesta sharing problem, could not do so.

The two delegation leaders hoped that the resumed New Delhi session would be able to work out a formula for sharing the river's waters on an ad-hoc basis.

The Indian delegation led by Mr. Mirdha left for New Delhi in the afternoon.

The Bangladesh delegation leader, Mr. Khan and the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mr. I. P. Khosla, saw Mr. Mirdha off at the Zia International Airport.

CSO: 4600/1762

ZIA'S WIDOW REPORTEDLY HELPING REBUILD BNP

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 5 Feb 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Amin Chowdhury and Moti Chowdhury]

[Text] The rank and file of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) have of late been trying to tie up the loose ends after a spell of inaction following the March 24 military take-over of last year. The reconstruction-move is learnt to be centered around the personality of Begum Khaleda Zia, the widow of the assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, the Founder of the party.

According to party sources, a three-member party high-command has been formed for steering the BNP and its front organizations with Begum Zia as the core member. The other two members of the high-command are the present party chairman and ousted president Justice Abdus Sattar and its self-exiled secretary general Badruddoza Chowdhury.

While the military administration took a heavy toll of the BNP hierarchy, the central leadership even in its mangled state could hardly take any initiative in meeting the urgings of the rank and file. And unlike most other parties, the central leadership or the national executive committee was never called into action.

Whatever limited activities had been carried out by the BNP during the past one year were due more to the pressure of a section of its workers than to the initiatives of the party stalwarts. In order to break the stalemate, a large number of workers and mid-level BNP leaders contacted Begum Zia for making an organizational move.

Shah Aziz Excluded

According to BNP sources, Begum Zia took the lead in contacting the senior leaders that finally helped the formation of the high command. The exclusion of Shah Azizur Rahman from the core leadership indicates the dominance of liberal-democratic forces within the BNP in the present reorganization move.

This trend was apparent in the recent observance of Ziaur Rahman's birth anniversary at the Shilpakala Academy. The activist BNP workers did not even allow Shah Azizur Rahman to speak on the occasion though the program included his name as one of the speakers.

Party chairman Justice Abdus Sattar's earlier contradiction with Begum Zia on the question of presidential nomination seems to have subsumed by the current dominant trend in the party.

Besides, the maneuverability of Justice Sattar is now seriously limited by the absence of two of his powerful aides, former telecommunications minister Moyeedul Islam and Dhaka's mayor Abul Hasnat. Both of them are in prison, the former awaiting trial and the latter serving his term.

The structural formation of the party from the apex to the district level under the BNP constitution is also hindering the reorganization move. An amalgam of diverse political elements and absence of party democracy are posing as major obstacles to the present move.

It appears that the major task of Begum Zia would be to reorganize the party on the basis of inner party democracy and then to make any other political move in terms of movement or alliances.

CSO: 4600/1758

REPORT ON TALKS WITH PRC CULTURAL DELEGATION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 Feb 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh and China on Sunday reviewed the entire gamut of cultural ties between the two countries at the official level talks in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The meeting suggested different measures for implementation of the existing cultural pact between the two countries signed in 1979 and subsequently renewed under biennial protocol.

The visiting Chinese Vice-Minister for Culture and head of the six-member team Mr Zhou Weishi led his country's delegation at the talks while Bangladesh side was led by the Additional Secretary in-charge of Sports and Culture Division, Mr Manzur Murshed.

After the talks lasting over two hours at the state guest house, Mr Manzur Murshed told newsmen that the during the talks held in a very cordial informal atmosphere both the sides agreed on a number of issues regarding the implementation of the cultural pact.

He said that both the sides exchanged ideas on the cultural activities of the respective countries and mode of patronisation of cultural activities both by the governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The Additional Secretary in-charge said it was agreed at the talks that a number of delegations from the cultural arena of Bangladesh would visit China in 1983. The teams would include cultural, television and film, religious and press delegations, he said.

From Bangladesh side, Mr Murshed said, more scholarships were proposed for Chinese students for studies in the field of Bengali language and culture and on Bhuddism.

CSO: 4600/1760

BRIEFS

CANADIAN FOOD AID--Canada will provide Bangladesh 123 million Canadian dollars (Tk 246 crore) grant for the purchase and transportation of approximately 3,50,00-0 metric tons of wheat and other food stuff during fiscal years 1983-84 and 84-85 says a Press release of the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka. The Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mr. Christopher W. Westdal and Mr. Mofizur Rahman Secretary External Resources Division signed the memorandum of understanding on Wednesday. The Press release said that this grant is in addition to an earlier grant of 60 million dollars to finance the provision of 220,500 tons of wheat to Bangladesh in September last year. The new grant will bring Canada's total food allocation to Bangladesh since independence to 570 million dollars. The wheat will be used in the public distribution system with a portion earmarked for the vulnerable group feeding Food for Work Programme and food security programme. Another agreement was signed on the same day between Canada and Bangladesh providing for 2.8 million dollars credit to support the rehabilitation programme of Khulna Newsprint Mills. In addition, Canada will provide two lakh dollars for related procurement and evaluation services. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Feb 83 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO NETHERLANDS--The government has decided to concurrently accredit Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Chowdhury, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to Belgium as Bangladesh ambassador to Netherlands, it was officially announced here on Tuesday, reports BSS. [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Feb 83 p 3]

AID FROM FRG--Bangladesh will receive an additional 25,000 metric tons of wheat from the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) during the current financial year as part of bilateral assistance programme under an agreement signed between the two countries in Dhaka on Thursday reports BSS. The quantity valued at approximately Taka 15.6 crore will reach Bangladesh ports by the middle of this month. Of the total quantity 20,000 metric tons of wheat will be sold under the rationing system and the sale proceeds will be used as counterpart fund for food security programme, another West German aided project. As in previous years the rest 5,000 metric tons of wheat will be earmarked for distribution free of charge within the framework of Food for-Works Programme project. The Additional Secretary of the External Resources Division Mr Shafiul Alam and the FRG Ambassador Baron Von Marschall, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments. Since 1972 the FRG Government has provided 434,000 metric tons of wheat as outright grant to Bangladesh under the bilateral cooperation programme. The value of the wheat is approximately

Taka 230 crore (228 million Deutsche Mark). West Germany one of the major donors to Bangladesh is also giving project aid commodity aid and technical assistance including training of Bangladeshi personnel abroad. The FRG assistance to Bangladesh since liberation stands at 2.2 billion Deutsche Mark for various projects and as food aid. [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 83 pp 1, 12]

BANGLADESH-BURMA DEMARCATION--Feb 4--Demarcation of the 170 mile-long Bangladesh-Burma border has been worked out in a series of talks held between the experts of both the countries recently, it is reliably learnt. Erection of boundary pillars along the border will begin soon after the ratification of the agreement by the Burmese Government. The 170-mile border includes 100 miles of Naaf river which separates Bangladesh and Burma. The meeting also decided that the mid-stream of the Naaf will be the border line of both the countries. The rest 70-mile border along the inaccessible hilly terrain was also carefully demarcated. In fact, the 70-mile border was never demarcated after 1947, the source said. Even in 1962, when St Martin Island was declared as Bangladesh territory following the border dispute between the then East Pakistan and Burma, 70-mile border along the terrain was not demarcated. If the demarcation is ratified by the Burmese government, the long-standing border dispute between the two countries will end. [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 Feb 83 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO GREECE--The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has decided to concurrently accredit Mr. A.K.M. Nazrul Islam at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to Yugoslavia as Bangladesh Ambassador to Hellenic Republic of Greece it was learnt officially on Thursday. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 5 Feb 83 p 3]

CSO: 4600/1763

CORRESPONDENT NOTES EXPANSION OF TRADE WITH ROMANIA

BK261402 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Commentary by R. N. Ganesh, special correspondent of the FINANCIAL EXPRESS]

[Excerpts] The visits to India last week by the Romanian foreign trade minister, Mr Alexander Rosu, provided an opportunity to give a further boost to Indo-Romanian economic relations.

Mr Rosu held wideranging discussions with the ministers of industry, railway, energy and commerce. Of particular significance was his rounds of discussions with the captains of industry held under the aegis of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. At these talks the Romanian minister expressed his country's desire to increase the areas of cooperation between the two countries, especially in the manufacture of electric locomotives. The idea of setting up joint ventures in third countries was also gone into at great length. As a result of these ministerial exchanges, India and Romania have agreed to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation. It has also been agreed that the two countries explore the possibility of setting up joint ventures in each other's country as well as in third countries. Other sectors identified for mutual cooperation include iron and steel, petroleum, chemicals and industry.

The Indo-Romanian trade plan for 1983 envisages a total trade turnover of 3,120 billion rupees. New items included in the trade plan for the next year for export to Romania are air compressors, graphite electrodes, cosmetics, spectacle frames and processed food.

The current trade and payments agreement, which is valid for 5 years up to 1985, provides for conducting the trade on a bilateral, balanced basis with payments for all commercial and noncommercial transactions in nonconvertible Indian currency. Major Indian exports to Romania comprise iron ore, manganese ore, long staple raw cotton, de-oiled cakes, leather, chemicals and engineering goods. As against this, major imports from Romania are urea, chemical products, rolled steel products, oil prospecting and drilling equipment, railway equipment, paper and cement.

New efforts are also to be made to correct any imbalances in trade. These include assisting Romania to export cement, fertilizers and steel products to India. In addition to these, India has initiated a number of interministerial meetings to step up purchase of various other items from Romania.

Romania is one of the important socialist countries with whom India's trade exchanges have shown an upswing in the past few years. In the initial years such trade was confined to traditional items. Now manufactured items and several engineering items are exported by India. More recently even electronic goods from this country are also being exported. Of late, computer software is finding its way to that socialist country.

There are several new proposals on the anvil for implementation by the two governments, but there is no doubt that Indo-Romanian collaboration has much more scope to expand in terms of items bought by each other. Cooperation in executing projects in third countries is a step in the right direction. This is expected to come about soon enough after the visit to India by Mr Rosu.

CSO: 4600/1729

TUDEH LEADERS ARRESTED 'ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE'

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Feb 83 pp 31, 32

[Interview with Revolution Prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi by ETTELA'AT; date and place not specified]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi, the revolution prosecutor general, took part in a press and radio-television interview and spoke about the imam's eight-point decree, the recent visit of the judges and Shar' arbiters to the imam, confiscated property, the arrest of a number of the leaders of the Tudeh Party and the arrest of a number of people from the minority Feda'ian minigroup (Ashraf Dehqani's branch).

In connection with the 8-point decree of the imam, the revolution prosecutor general of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: In this area, we prepared a 10-point directive to lighten the load of the revolution courts, which had much to do involving some of the small issues, but in regards to investigating the counterrevolutionary cases, their involvement increased. They will be able to examine cases more rapidly and thoroughly. We had an audience with the imam and the imam very much stressed the issue of fighting counterrevolution.

Security Duties

Concerning the security duties, Mr Musavi-Tabrizi said: The brothers in the Guards Corps, the committees, the police and other law enforcement agencies must continue bodily searches of suspects, inspection of automobiles and inspection of the arteries of the city in the course of their duties. In order to prevent explosions and counterrevolutionary and terrorist operations, the law enforcement officials must certainly carry out their duties and search bags. The imam emphasized that the revolution courts must act with decisiveness.

Confiscated Properties

Then, concerning confiscated properties, the revolution prosecutor general said: The property of a large number of the fugitives have been confiscated, which must be supervised. They have debts to the government and the banks. They have plundered the treasury. In fact, this property belongs to the government.

However, in one case, someone might be accused for financial reasons. His house and some of his property are confiscated. Until his case is examined, there are no rights to make use of such property and they definitely cannot be used because the owner is there watching over it. In order to prevent him from escaping punishment, we want to have collateral until we can investigate the issue and find out what the situation is.

He added: There are properties whose owners have, for one reason or another, escaped. There might be serious cases against them in the Revolution Prosecutor's Offices, they might be murderers, they might be guilty of financial misconduct or have debts to the banks while their property is here and they have fled. Such property, in fact, belongs to the government. If they appoint an attorney with the intention of selling, their property belongs to the government. If they appoint an attorney with the intention of selling their property and sending the money abroad, they must be prevented from doing so, because the exit of currency must be prevented. Permission has been obtained from the imam. Certainly, since they are non-litigious affairs, they must be protected and supervised.

In the beginning, the Prosecutor's Office makes inquiries and inventories the property. If the property is endangered, it sells it at a fair price and puts the money in a security account, recording the bank receipt and the price. If the property can be kept and is not perishable, the movable property is collected and stored and the immovable property is rented out and the money is deposited in a government security account. If it is a company with employees and workers, a supervisor is appointed to manage it who will deduct the cost from the revenues and keep the remainder. If the person returns from abroad, the court examines his case. If he is not guilty, his property is returned to him.

There might be 10 cases of this kind. They have all been reported to the imam.

Arrest of a Number of the Leaders of the Tudeh Party in Connection with Espionage

Our correspondent asked Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi about the arrest of a number of the leaders of the Tudeh Party.

Mr Musavi-Tabrizi answered:

Those arrested are individuals most of whom are leaders of the Tudeh Party. But, they have not been arrested for their political or party activities. For this reason, many of the members were not arrested and they are still engaged in their activities throughout the country.

Specifically, these people were arrested in connection with espionage on behalf of the Eastern countries and the documents are also available. Some of them have confessed. They have confessed on their own. They have also said things incriminating others on their own and very incriminating documents exist in regards to them. Some of them wanted to escape. They had made such things as forged birth certificates.

The Revolution Prosecutor's Office of the capital and the Guards Corps alertly investigated and collected documents. And these people were arrested.

I have spoken before regarding this Party. In accordance with the Constitution and the requirements established by the Islamic Republic, these people should have presented their members, their central members and the other requirements to the Ministry of Interior. If the administrative and legal procedures had been followed, it would have been legal with the approval of the Ministry of Interior.

Of course, this does not apply to the Tudeh Party alone, it applies to all parties. Of course, they had presented a number of people to the Ministry of Interior. I know that the people they had introduced were these spies.

The Ministry of Interior will never approve of these people as their leaders, because such would be contrary to the requirements established by the Majlis. In keeping with our Constitution, we will never give the right to participate in activities to those who engage in espionage. Article 26 of the Constitution states: Political and guild-related parties, gatherings and societies, Islamic societies and recognized religious minorities shall be free, provided they do not violate the principles of independence, freedom, national unity and Islamic standards of the Islamic Republic and no one can be prevented from participating in them or forced to participate in them.

Those arrested have violated the Constitution by spying for foreigners and this is unacceptable to the Islamic Republic.

If the charges of espionage of those arrested are proven in the court (we have very strong evidence in this regard), they will be punished. If they are convicted, they may no longer be presented

to the Ministry of Interior as leaders of the Tudeh Party and, naturally, we cannot accept them, because the requirements have been ratified by the Majlis as laws and have been clarified in Article 26 of the Constitution. But, if this Party presents virtuous people as its leaders and central members in accordance with the law, as long as they are not belligerent, they may remain active (of course, upon the approval of the Ministry of Interior).

There are individuals in this Party who have not been arrested. We know that at the present time, they have not been accused of espionage and have not been arrested.

But, regarding those who have been accused, almost all the charges against them have been known and there are other issues that will become known later. In connection with the activities of the Tudeh Party, I must say that after the Ministry of Interior makes its determination, there will be no problem regarding their activities unless the Tudeh Party decides to support these spies or involves itself in terrorism in support of them, in which case, we will condemn the Tudeh Party for endorsing espionage.

The Landlord-Lessor Plan and Its Successes

Concerning the landlord-lessor plan, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi said: In connection with that plan, a lot of information was obtained by the Prosecutor's Office.

And leads were obtained. When they realized the situation, they wanted to escape.

While they were in the process of moving, many of them were arrested. The policy line of the hypocrite organization is essentially based on escaping. Tehran is no longer a safe place for them. Basically, they have told their active and militant supporters to go abroad. As for those who are not important or are of moderate importance, they are told to go to Kurdistan, to locations which are under the control of the Democrat [Party] and the Komeleh, or to the mountains to live. They were under a lot of pressure. They were going to escape, but, thank God, as a result of the alertness of the brothers who discovered that they were escaping across the borders, through Mahabad, Saqqez, Mahedan, Zabol and Kerman, numerous groups of 5-10 people were arrested while trying to escape. Thank God, the Islamic Prosecutor's Office of the capital arrested many of them. A large number of them fell into the hands of the Hezbollah nation as a result of the landlord-lessor plan. The individuals who were in Tehran engaging in terrorist activities and all the terrorists were arrested in the course of these events and punished.

Arrest of a Group of Minority Feda'ian Members

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi then referred to the arrest of some of the members of the minority Feda'ian group (Ashraf Dehqan branch) and said: On 8 February, which marks the Siahkal day, they wanted to do some mischief in Tehran. They wanted to blow up one of the embassies and assassinate the charge d'affaires or the ambassador. Of course, the brothers in the central committee were aware and watchful. A few moments before the operations were to begin, all the persons involved in this activity were arrested. One of them was killed during the arrest and a number were arrested. Of course, they had been identified well previously and the instigator was arrested before the incident could occur. About seven persons were arrested in these operations and several others were also arrested in this connection before they started the operations.

Repentance of Individuals

He then referred to the repentance of individuals and said: In connection with certain sins, such as [disregarding] prohibitions and drinking, they should not be afraid. They can come and repent.

10,000
ISO: 4640/131

IRAN

RULES FOR PASSPORTS, FOREIGN EXCHANGE, EXIT VISAS EXPLAINED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Feb 83 p 3

[Announcement of Foreign Ministry]

Political Service of KEYHAN: Following the publication of the application form for exit visas, various questions have been raised by the people concerning such things as who may fill out these forms, who may receive government foreign exchange and whose passport will be considered valid.

In order to eliminate such ambiguities, we spoke to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs official in charge of this issue. The important points worthy of note in this interview as well as instances where exit visas have previously been issued and examples of those who are eligible to receive government foreign exchange follow for the information of the people.

This official, responding to the question concerning those who must complete and send the passport application forms, said: "This form has been published for issuance, extension or renewal of passports and exit visas. Therefore, all persons who intend to leave the country must complete this form and send it to the passport office of the Police Department. In other words, those who have no passports at all will fill out the form for issuance of a passport; those whose passports have expired will fill out the form for extension of their passports; those who need to have their passports renewed will fill out the form for renewal. Even those who have valid Islamic Republic passports must fill out the forms and send them to the passport office of the Police Department to receive exit stamps. Only persons who hold passports and exit visas valid in accordance with the previously announced requirements need not fill out this form and may, as

before, take steps in this regard by going to the passport office.

Concerning the procedure and the requirements for the exit of the parents of students from the country who could, for a while during the past summer, travel abroad benefitting from the government foreign exchange rate, he said: With the freedom to leave the country, the parents of students must also take steps similar to those of other applicants to obtain passports and exit visas, and the government foreign exchange rate will not apply to them. In other words, regardless of the situation with their passports, they will fill out the forms and send them in so that their applications can be studied as are those of others.

He also emphasized that no persons other than those involved in previously announced instances may leave the country without submitting the forms and obtaining passports or the stamp. Therefore, only those individuals may take steps to obtain visas and travel tickets whose passports have been studied after submission of the proper forms and who have received an exit stamp.

Concerning the procedure for studying the passport applications, this official said: This form does not specify the kind of application or what must be done with the individual's passport. Therefore, all applicants will be responded to through the press or invitations and they will be told, for instance, to go to the passport office on a certain date with certain particular documents.

The 20 Instances Allowing the Exit of the Country

With the elimination of the restrictions on leaving the country without the benefit of government foreign exchange rates and the announcement of the point that only the previously announced instances apply in regard to government foreign exchange rates, the question is raised by the people as to what persons are included in these cases. In response to this question, we provide the following in regards to individuals who do not need to submit these forms and who may benefit from the government foreign exchange rate:

1. Students who are approved by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.
2. Males with spouses studying abroad in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education may, with the approval of the above-mentioned Ministry, obtain exit

visas along with their male children under 18 years of age and female children who are their dependents.

3. Women with husbands studying abroad in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, with the approval of the above-mentioned Ministry, may, along with their male children under 18 years of age and female children who are their dependents, obtain exit visas.

4. This paragraph applies to the parents of students who are no longer included in the permitted cases for exit from the country and benefiting from the government foreign exchange rate.

5. Persons holding residency cards with the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

6. Iranians holding residency permits approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The above-mentioned permit must have been obtained by the applicant from a foreign country.

In other words, residency permits which have been issued in Iran by foreign agencies in Tehran or permits which are sent to applicants are not valid for leaving the country.

7. Iranian girls and women whose parents reside abroad.

8. Government officials who hold a letter of introduction from a minister or an individual whose signature has been approved by the concerned minister.

9. Patients whose need to travel abroad has been approved by the minister of health or the deputy minister of health.

10. Drivers who must carry passengers across the Bazargan border.

11. Merchants who have been introduced in writing through the Chamber of Commerce or the Ministry of Commerce with a mention of their reason for travel.

12. Foreign spouses of Iranian males who have acquired Iranian citizenship as a result of their marriage.

13. Iranian men with originally foreign wives along with their male children under 18 years of age and female children who are their dependents.

14. Iranian women with foreign husbands can, upon the approval of the Office of Foreign Nationals concerning their husbands not being residents of Iran, with the abolition of their residence permits and obtaining exit visas, may go to the passport office of the Police Department to take steps for their exit.

15. Originally foreign men and their families who have legally acquired Iranian citizenship to visit their relatives abroad.

16. Foreign men who reside in Iran with their Iranian spouses, their male children under 18 years of age and the female children who are their dependents, without the requirement of the abolition of their residence permit.

17. Physicians with the approval and introduction of the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Sciences.

18. Parents whose children have become ill abroad and require the care of their parents may, after the illness of their children has been verified through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, take steps to obtain exit permits.

19. All pilgrimage tours to Syria and other holy places with the approval and introduction of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance (the organization of hajj and pilgrimage).

20. All educational and sightseeing tours to the Islamic countries of the Third World with the approval of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance (the Office of Tourism).

10,000

CSO: 4640/126

RAFSANJANI ADDRESSES NAVAL OFFICERS, REVOLUTION GUARDS

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18 Jan 83 pp 2, 12

[Text] The speaker of the Majlis in a meeting with Navy commanders, the director and officials of Political Ideology of the Navy, members of the Revolutionary Guards at the Nuh Joint Naval Base stated: The Islamic Republic Priority Policy is to maintain the security of the Persian Gulf.

Major Afzali, commander of the Navy, director and officials of the Office of Political Ideology, Navy officers, and members of the Revolution Guards, met Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, yesterday at the Nuh Joint Naval Base. According to the Majlis Office of Public Relations, in this meeting Dr Elahi, the director of the Navy's Office of Political Ideology, said, "The purpose of Nuh Base is to train Navy personnel by public participation. Fortunately, necessary efforts made it possible to set up this center within one of the naval bases and we should rely on the faith and determination of the devoted masses to prepare to defend ourselves."

Then, Major Afzali discussed the friendly cooperation between officials of the Revolution Guards and the Navy and said, "It has been over a year since the Navy began its efforts to organize and train the Revolution Guards' units; and the first group of trained personnel are now going through their practical training in Bandar Abbas. The second group is also being trained at the training centers of Rasht, Bandar Anzali and Manjil." Concerning the problems facing the Navy, he said that manpower development has been the most important goal of the Navy in the past two or three years and the Naval Academy in Bushehr and training centers in the north have become operational. At the conclusion, Major Afzali warned against possible threats in the Persian Gulf citing recent developments in the region.

Then, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani began his remarks and expressed appreciation for cooperation among Revolution Guards and the Army and said, "We have seen good results from this union and a better future is at sight. The spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice is definitely effective in the battlefield. The combination of two powers of beliefs and weapons has an important role in the battle, and it is hoped that this base which has been set up with the help of the Revolution Guards and the Navy could be efficient by using correct management and proper cooperation."

The speaker of the Majlis, pointing out that the officials of Political Ideology are morale instructors said, "Islam, the Imam and the officials' desire is that the relationship among the officials of the Political Ideology and armed forces be based on education. Commanders and soldiers should look at the officials of Political Ideology as teachers and kind fathers so they can discuss their problems with them. The Political Ideology must not act in such a way that would give the impression that there is a secret political control center. If Political Ideology carries a political name, it is for its political education and the political guidance of these offices."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that the old regime did not want military personnel to be knowledgeable about religion, its meaning, relations between the people and the government, the position of the soldier and his relation to the politician. He said, "We want our soldiers to decide and act knowingly. A misled, influenced and unaware soldier is not desirable in Islam."

The speaker of the Majlis then emphasized the important role of the Navy in maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf and waterways and said, "In two years you have proved that the imagination of some people and the enemy's belief in possible destructiveness of Iran which might lead to insecurity of the Persian Gulf and an eventual international crisis were all false. And, we know that if the Persian Gulf is not secure, our enemies would suffer as much as we would and the whole world would face a great problem. The blood lines of many large economic organizations of the world are located in this region. If a five-month crisis and insecurity develops here, we do not know how the world would face the outcome economically. Basically, we are not seeking chaos, crisis and insecurity and our principle is to offer our views and thoughts in a balanced environment because our thoughts have been influence under normal conditions. We have, of course, prepared ourselves to react if they should force upon us insecurity and show signs indicating their intention of depriving us from waterways. The first priority for the Islamic Republic is to maintain the Persian Gulf's security, because we Muslims of the region and the entire world need this security. If, one day, they try to exclude us, that day something will happen that we do not want to happen. To protect the security of the Persian Gulf, we have not yet employed our advanced equipment and particular possibilities; but unfortunately some of the Western powers who have an interest in this region are setting the grounds with their own hands for such an explosion. For instance, the French who supply Iraq with advanced military equipment and are not just watching, think that everything ends with creating insecurity for some of our ships and ports. This is a big mistake they are making and I hope what I say today is clear to the world. It seems logical and rational that France has followed the worst possible policies.

French politics have created a question mark for the future of socialists in the world. The French Socialists, as an ideological party, have fought opposition for decades and moved one step further and gained power under the shadow of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, which was a heavy blow to the world of capitalism. But in practice, they chose unprincipled and unorthodox

policies. Practically, they support fugitive Iranian generals who were too far from socialism and the leftist school of thought. In order to steal a few more dollars from the people of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Emirates and such countries, they had to beg. To attract their attention, they submitted their politics to them. In fact, the French Socialist Party is acting as a lever in the hands of American capitalists and the future will be a judge of this. What Reagan and the Zionists should do now has exactly been given to the Socialists to do. And, they have taken over the center of regional terrorists. The U.S., France and such countries had blacklisted Iraq for the past twenty years because Iraq had a terrorist government. But now France is giving Iraq weapons which are used for terrorism. Iraq is given Exocet missiles to attack commercial ships in the Persian Gulf and we believe this is how France becomes a terrorist country. They arrange meetings for fugitive Iranian terrorists and their newspapers, radios and televisions are at their disposal. This is a good sign of their weakness and they think such games are sufficient to discourage the Islamic Republic of Iran. This move by the French government has made the destiny of the French and their economy dependent on survival of someone like Saddam who will not last very long. France was once host to the Imam and had the opportunity if the Socialists realized it and planned correctly, to strengthen their ties with the Muslims of the world.

The satisfaction of individuals like King Husayn and Saddam who have no support to continue their rule is not a rational policy.

The speaker of the Majlis reiterated: "We in the region are watching ourselves and should be prepared to take away the security of others who ignorantly try to take away our security. We will show that these plottings will turn against them. We hope that what is right for these nations will happen to them. We hope that these countries are wise enough to avoid causing a big inconvenience to the world."

At the conclusion of his remarks to officials of the Nuh base and the Navy's commanding officers, Hojjat ol-Eslam said, "As you have so far maintained the security of Persian Gulf waters with your wise moves, continue your task and be more prepared at this stage because you might demonstrate more serious actions in the coming months. Hopefully you will be proud then as you have been in the past."

CSO: 4640/140

MAJLIS CHIEF DENOUNCES 'ECONOMIC TERRORISTS'

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 83 p 18

[Text] A group of the members of the Sarollah patrol unit of the Guards Corps of District 10 of the county and a number of members of the Islamic society of Tehran guilds along with the Islamic society of the wrestlers of Shahr-e Rey met yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis.

The speaker of the Majlis said in this meeting: The Guards Corps members of the Sarollah group throughout the country and especially in Tehran have brought tranquility and peace of mind to the people and have cleared the city of impurities and mischief, which was a great task. The people have come to us and told us that they feel at ease when they see the Guards Corps patrol cars and that the opponants of Islam, the revolution and the people are angered and upset at seeing you because you have prevented mischief. The Majlis and the nation are thankful to you and God will reward you.

Continuing his speech addressing the members of the Islamic society of Tehran guilds, the speaker of the Majlis said: The brothers in the Islamic societies have a great share in mobilizing the people and managing the demonstrations in the marches. The economic terrorism which exists in the country is no less than any other kind of terrorism. We expect the Islamic societies to supervise the guilds and through ways that they themselves know better than others, not to allow a small number to be mischievous towards the people.

Referring to the problem of hoarding and overpricing, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: A select group is responsible for hoarding and overpricing. Today, our society suffers from this problem, which will result in the distrust of the businessmen by people. Of course, it is clear that this situation cannot continue and that the national authorities must make the necessary decisions, because if a group offers goods for several times its actual price, this is dangerous. The issue that is

escalated today in order to, for instance, give the bazaar merchants a bad name in the society. Those who do this are either ignorant or mischievous. Like the pharaoh whose policy was to create disunity among the people and make them confront each other, they also want to create disunity and neutralize the united force of the people. The speaker of the Majlis said: Now, a mysterious and Satanic movement intends to give the businessmen, who are a large part of the people, a bad name in the minds of the people and to create disputes. Unfortunately, the businessmen provide the excuse. In other words, they are the same people who do not make the goods available to the people in order to be able to sell them more expensively on the black market. Therefore, you yourselves, the Islamic societies, for the good of the nation must carry out the rule of instructing to do good and preventing the doing of evil, carrying out supervision by the people, otherwise, this conspiracy of the enemies will solidify and it would be dangerous for us. We hope to be able to preserve the unity of the country with alertness.

10,000

CSO: 4640/142

PLAN FOR RESETTLING IRAQI REFUGEES ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 83 p 18

[Text] Yesterday, the deputy minister for international affairs explained the details of the new plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the travels of Iraqi nationals to Iran to visit the prisoners of the imposed war.

Kazempur-Ardebili said in this regard: In order to neutralize the conspiracy of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq to prevent visits by the families of more than 46,000 Iraqi prisoners to Iran, on the basis of a new plan, the Islamic Republic of Iran grants permission to four members of the immediate families of those prisoners to travel to Iran to visit the prisoners. In this manner, the possibility for the travel of nearly 200,000 Iraqis to Iran has been anticipated.

The deputy minister for international affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added: To implement this humane plan and to eliminate the existing and future obstacles, the embassies of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been instructed to make arrangements for the visits of the Iraqi applicants as soon as possible. Since this act of traveling to Iran on the part of the families of the prisoners might be confronted with revenge from the Ba'thist regime, the embassies of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been instructed to only issue an entry permit for the group and to avoid stamping their passports, which would show that they had traveled to Iran. Also, provisions will be made in this plan to prevent the announcement of the identities of these participants upon their request.

The Implementary Procedure

Concerning the procedure to implement this plan, the deputy foreign minister said: Within the next few days, instructions for admitting the families of the prisoners will be issued for the embassies of the Islamic Republic of Iran so that this group

may be informed of the program and for arrangements to be made for their participation in this humane and Islamic program by going to our embassies. He added: On 2 January of last year, Engineer Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced to the world an unprecedented, innovative plan for visits of the families of the Iraqi war prisoners to Iran. Immediately, we formed a committee and all the preliminary steps were taken to ensure that the program could even be carried out unilaterally by Iran. But, despite the fact that this plan was endorsed and welcomed by the International Red Cross, which was called upon to supervise the plan, and Iran was praised for its willingness, the disruptive actions of the regime of Baghdad prevented the implementation of the plan for the visits. He added: When this innovative act was first announced, about 7,000 Iraqi soldiers had been captured by the Islamic combatants and plans for the visits of about 3,000 Iraqi people who were among the members of the immediate families of the Iraqi prisoners was anticipated. But, with the continuation of the occupation of Iranian territory, the failure to meet the rightful conditions of Iran, the continuation of the war and the military defeats of Iraq, the number of Iraqi prisoners in Iran amounted to more than 46,000. Now, after solving the problems of this great plan, the Islamic Republic of Iran announces that from the families of every Iranian prisoner, four persons may fly to Iran from any departure point other than Baghdad to visit the prisoners and they can rest assured that if their plans are coordinated through the embassies of the Islamic Republic, they may visit these prisoners in Iran and be welcomed by our nation.

Kazempur-Ardebili said in conclusion: It is hoped that with planning and exact implementation of the innovative plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is basically a humane step, the families of the Iraqi prisoners will, in their visit to Iran, realize the likes of the Ba'thist government concerning the prisoners and the conspiracies of Baghdad to create intentional ambiguities concerning the situation of the prisoners which were carried out to discredit the Islamic revolution will be neutralized.

10,000

CSO: 4640/142

NEW TRIBAL AFFAIRS HEADQUARTERS ORGANIZED

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 14 Feb 83 p 15

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, the minister of Interior, in accordance with a decree by Prime Minister Musavi, was charged with organizing a headquarters called the Iranian tribal headquarters in the Ministry of Interior to eliminate the cultural, economic and tribal problems, shortcomings and issues. The text of the decree was put at the disposal of the IRNA as follows:

In the Name of the Almighty

Brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, the honorable minister of interior:

Based on the role of the beloved tribes of the country in protecting the borders and guarding the Islamic revolution and considering the deficiencies and difficulties that this deprived stratum of society have suffered in the past, in order to eliminate the difficulties, deficiencies and shortcomings of the brave tribes of Iran, you shall be assigned to establish a headquarters called the Iranian tribal headquarters, made up of the fully authorized representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, Education and Islamic Guidance and also the institutions of the Guards Corps and the Reconstruction Crusade, and to take steps in the following areas.

1. Studying the long term and essential solutions to eliminate the difficulties of the tribes and ameliorate their human, cultural and economic problems.
2. Policy making and coordination in the area of eliminating the short term difficulties of the tribes through the concerned ministries, organizations and institutions by forming committees under the supervision of the headquarters.

Naturally, this headquarters will only take steps in policy making and coordination among the concerned organizations and the

implementary operations will be carried out by the organizations. Ministries, organizations and Islamic revolutionary institutions shall be responsible for carrying out any sort of implementary operations in regards to the tribes on the basis of the policies of the Iranian tribal headquarters and to present their tribal budgets upon the approval of this headquarters. The honorable minister of interior shall be responsible for establishing the necessary coordination through this headquarters.

Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

10,000

CSO: 4640/142

'SON' OF AYATOLLAH FAKHR ARRESTED FOR FRAUD

Athens ETHNOS in Greek 28 Feb 83 p 18

[Text] The "son" of...Ayatollah Fakhr, a great religious leader of Iran, will be brought to court for fraud against the Iranian state.

He is Khosrow Andom Ust from Tehran, a known thief and counterfeiter in his country.

When he had first surfaced on 29 September 1982 as the son of a well-known personality and reportedly a physician himself at the local Iranian Embassy, he was greeted with respect.

"I come from Iran," he had said. "However, during my trip, I lost--or someone stole from me--5,000 dollars. Please, could you give me 15,000 drachmas so I can return...."

His compatriots gave him a check for that amount, which he cashed at the Athens branch of the Bank of Iran.

An Embassy employee reported the incident to the competent authorities of his country, providing all the characteristics of the affair. An urgent cable from Iran followed, stating that this individual is a suspect and is well known as a thief and counterfeiter.

The bank was ordered to notify the policy if he returned. A few days later the ...physician returned to receive additional funds. He was detained by the bank employees until police arrived on the premises. And thus the reported son of the religious leader was arrested and taken to jail.

CSO: 3521/233

EUROCOMMUNIST MEETING SUPPORTS IRANIAN, IRAQI REVOLUTIONS

Athens I AVGI in Greek 1 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] A demonstration of solidarity with the struggling Iranian people was held yesterday at the Gloria Theater on the initiative of the Greek Committee for Solidarity with the Iranian People and the Council of National Resistance of Iran.

Various representatives of parties and organizations were present at the demonstration. Newsman Asteris Stangos spoke on behalf of the Greek commission.

Comrade Angelos Diamandopoulos, member of the staff office of the KKE (int) central committee addressed a message to the Council of National Resistance of Iran. Comrade Diamandopoulos stated:

"The goals of our meeting today are the following, and they are perhaps opposite at first glance. a) We are honoring the historical struggle of the people which expelled the shah and the U.S.' imperialistic mastery. b) We are expressing our opposition to the present policy of the Iranian Government in relation to the anti-democratic terrorism and the arrests.

"At the same time, we are expressing our confidence in the power of the Iraqi revolution," comrade Diamandopoulos continued, "and our conviction in the re-establishment of the revolutionary process aiming at democracy, peace, modernization and freedom.

Comrade Diamandopoulos ended by saying: "In our absolute certainty that the hour for the victory of the democratic forces of the Iraqi revolution is dawning, we are expressing our full solidarity with the historical struggle and with the Council of National Resistance of Iran."

CSO: 3521/233

BIOGRAPHIES, APPOINTMENTS OF NOTABLES PUBLISHED

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 15 Feb 83 p 26

[Text] Haeri, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad - Sadegh

Born: 1936 - Shiraz

Position: Member of Experts Assembly from Fars Province.

Education: Completed Secondary School and entered University of Tehran to begin a course in Engineering. But he was expelled from University by SAVAK.

1955 completed a course in theology. His religious studies were under supervision of Ayatollah Broujerdi and Imam Khomieni.

Political Activity: He was arrested in 1963 and in 1966 he was trailed and condemned to serve 8 years in prison.

After the Revolution he was active in Islamic courts of various cities and was elected to Majlis from city of Shiraz. After assassination of Ayatollah Dastghaib, by the order of Imam Khomieni he was elected to be Friday Prayer leader of Shiraz.

Hosseini Khamene'i - Seyed Hadi

Born: 1947, Mash'had, Khorasan Province

Position: Member of Majlis

Family Background: His father is a clergyman. He is a clergyman.

Career: After Revolution: Head of Committees and general problems of people and Army in Ahwaz, Head of Committee and Islamic Republican Party.

Language: Arabic, English

Travel: China

Appointments

9 Feb 83 -- Naser Abolsedgh was appointed as the director of Financial Affairs of the Guidance Ministry.

9 Feb 83 -- Hassan Amiri was appointed as the political and administrial deputy of Yazd Province's governate general.

9 Feb 83 -- Mohammad-Javad Yalaghi Ashrafiwas appointed as the governor of Chochan.

CSO: 4600/393

ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES OF NONALIGNMENT STRESSED

GF041302 Karachi DAWN in English 1 Mar 83 p 9

[Editorial: "Pakistan and Nonalignment"]

[Text] President Ziaul Haq has reaffirmed that his government will never allow foreign military bases in Pakistan because this country is a "new entrant" to the nonaligned group and nonalignment does not envisage a military pact between a NAM [Nonaligned Movement] member and a third country. The president's concern to safeguard Pakistan's nonaligned credentials will be widely appreciated. However, it might be pointed out that the compulsion to steer clear of superpower politics has not arisen simply because of this country's recently acquired membership of the Nonaligned Movement. It would be more appropriate to say that any identification with the interests of one or the other superpower or power bloc has for long been felt to be detrimental to Pakistan's national interest. Given its geopolitical location and the fact that it is a small Third World nation with little political or economic leverage in international politics, Pakistan could ill-afford to get involved on one side and inevitably invite the hostility of the other. Moreover, Pakistan's security needs have not always coincided with the global interests of either superpower. True, all governments in office in this country have not been very mindful of the implications of alignment in determining their foreign policy orientations. In the 50's we entered into military arrangements with the U.S. which compromised Pakistan's independence and sovereignty, without any additional safeguards for the country's national security. On the contrary, it adversely affected its political standing in the Third World. But by the 60's the significance of nonalignment began to be widely recognized in Pakistan and, if not in letter but in spirit at least, the country's foreign policy had shifted its course. It assumed a nonaligned dimension and hence Pakistan's entry into NAM at Havana in 1979 did not entail any radical change in Islamabad's foreign policy.

The Pakistan Government's decision to adhere to the criteria of membership generally recognized by NAM is to be welcomed. The principles of nonalignment as defined in 1961 and still universally accepted as the basis of membership include non-membership of multilateral military alliances concluded in the context of great power conflicts and the avoiding of military agreements and lease of military bases to a foreign power in the same context.

No NAM member has violated these specific criteria. But it cannot be said with the same degree of certainty that all NAM members are pursuing policies which are wholly compatible with the underlying spirit and concept of nonalignment. Thus, NAM also requires its members to adopt an independent foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence. But some states which profess to be pursuing nonaligned and independent foreign policies do not hesitate to identify themselves with one or the other superpower in such a way as to promote the global interest of their senior partner. It is in this context that the members of NAM should be prepared to do some honest soul-searching. It is clear that the confrontationist approach which has now come to mark superpower politics is casting its dark shadows on the Nonaligned Movement, and the tendency is emerging among a section of members to side with the superpower or the other on issues which have a direct bearing on global politics. If Pakistan has not granted any military bases to a foreign power and has not entered into a military alliance, it is because it wants to protect its nonaligned credentials as well as because it is aware of the risks in getting involved in superpower rivalry. The recent military sales and economic assistance arrangements with the U.S. or Pakistan's stand on Afghanistan cannot be said to have impaired this country's nonaligned position because one involves a nation's sovereign right to strengthen its security by obtaining means of defence from any quarter it chooses and on terms that are fairly common to such dealings, while the other concerns a principled position on armed intervention by a third country, regardless of whether the perpetrator of such an act is a superpower or a not-so-powerful entity like Vietnam.

CSO: 4600/384

PROBLEMS OF USHR, ZAKAT COLLECTION DISCUSSED

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Feb 83 Economic & Business Review pp I, IV

[Article by M. Ziauddin]

[Text]

ACCORDING to a conservative estimate, about Rs 2000 million are expected to be mobilised in the first year of the implementation of the Ushr system which will come into force from March 15, this year.

Although many ambiguities still exist regarding the mode of collection and disbursement of this Islamic levy, knowledgeable circles feel that the experience gained during the last three years of operating the Zakat funds should enable the concerned agencies at least to handle the disbursement part of Ushr with a degree of authority.

The Zakat fund, which is estimated to be around Rs. 800 million annually, is disbursed through 35,000 local Zakat committees, among "the needy, the indigent and the poor."

Rehabilitation aspect

According to a report presented by the Administrator-General, Zakat and Secretary-General, Central Zakat Council on August 5, 1982, rehabilitation work is also being conducted through vocational training centres established with the funds received from the National Zakat Foundation which was allocated a sum of Rs 100 million in the federal budget for 1981-82. These centres are reportedly being operated with funds from NZF and the Zakat collected annually.

Here, according to some sections, the limits of *Sharia* appear to have been transgressed especially the aspect of *Tamleek*. But those who insist on expanding the scope of rehabilitation aspect argue that by spending the Zakat on the immediate needs of the needy, we would only be perpetuating poverty.

However, the disbursement aspect of Ushr has another limitation. Under the law, Ushr collected in a particular area has to be spent in that very area. That means, in view of the limited amounts expected to be collected by the local Ushr committees, there would not be enough for launching rehabilitation programmes in areas where necessary. And in areas which are composed of mainly big landholdings, the Ushr money would be more than what is necessary for the needy of that area.

It has been recommended that in such a situation the surplus should be transferred to the provincial Zakat Fund for distribution among the deserving local Zakat committee. Here again, the limits of *Sharia* would appear to have been transgressed with respect to *Tamleek*.

The system of Ushr is already in existence at private level in NWFP and Baluchistan. It is feared that with the extension of the Ushr Ordinance to these two provinces those who were benefiting from the already existing system would face difficulties unless they are included in the lists of *Mustahqueens* to be prepared by the respective local Zakat committees, to enable them

to continue to benefit from Ushr.

A limitation

The biggest stumbling block in the way of an unambiguous implementation of the disbursement aspect of the Ushr system is the lack of a universally acceptable definition of "*Infaq-i-Fisabil-il-Lah*". Under this injunction a deserving Mujahid going on Jihad may be armed with equipment purchased from Zakat, Ushr fund and he will become the owner of this equipment.

In the modern age, an individual soldier cannot be allowed to own his tank or F-16. On the other hand, the Ulama still insist that "*Fisabil-il-Lah*" covers only individuals and not groups. It is believed that if the injunction is taken to include groups, the rehabilitation aspect of the Zakat and Ushr systems would become pronounced without invoking *Tamleek*.

It would be of interest to recall here that at the August 5, 1982 meeting of Zakat and Ushr committees, Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan requested the Ulama to define the Quranic words "*Fisabil-il-Lah*" and find out if these words could not be extended from individuals to groups.

He indicated that there was a need for *Ijtihad* on this point. He also asked the Ulama present at the meeting to send in their respective opinion about this point of *Tamleek* as well as other ambiguities and misunderstandings that still exist with regard to collection and disbursement of Ushr.

It is not known if the Finance Minister had received these opinions in time to incorporate them in the rules finalised for collection and disbursement of Ushr. However, since no formal announcement was made by him in this regard in his Majlis-i-Shoora speech of February 5, it is believed that the no consensus could be arrived on the existing ambiguities and, therefore, they have been allowed to continue.

The Federal Minister's Shoora speech also did not indicate if any of the recommendation mentioned in the Hamza Committees report with regard to Ushr were incorporated in the Ushr rules. The Hamza Committee report had recommended that

(1) subsistence farmers should be totally exempted from Ushr for

three years or Ushr should be collected from them on voluntary basis

(2) Instead of calculating the Ushr on the price of wheat, it should be calculated on the basis of average price of gram, maize and wheat. The wheat price basis, the report thought, would be disadvantageous to the *Sahib-i-Mul*

(3) In view of the rising cost of production, the exemption limit should be raised from one-fourth to one-third

(4) Those using power operated tubewells should be allowed 40 per cent exemption and those using diesel operated tubewells 50 per cent exemption.

Knowledgeable circles contend that the Hamza Committee's recommendations were heavily loaded in favour of the big landlords and therefore were appropriately dismissed. However, it is widely held that the subsistence farmers should be given the option of making Ushr payment on voluntary basis.

But those who know the rural society very well say that this concession could easily be made to work in favour of the big landlords who would have no difficulty in parceling their holdings into small pieces of subsistence level units. Indeed, there are many who have already done this to escape land revenue and to get the benefit of so many fiscal and monetary concessions given from time to time for the subsistence farmers.

The critics insist that with the exception of a few, the workings of the Zakat committees, especially at the local level are not efficient and more often than not personal shortcomings of committee members have tended to give rise to the element of dishonesty in the handling of Zakat funds.

The agencies responsible for managing these committees have time and again vehemently denied this. However, now since these committees will also become the collecting agencies with the implementation of the Ushr system, the element of honesty of the committee members becomes all the more important.

Those who know the social value system of rural areas warn that the local Ushr committees will either become subservient to the big landlords of the area and accept whatever assessment they would submit

or they would serve as tools of one or the other bradari of the area who have been feuding for ages, thereby further sharpening their contradictions and becoming the cause for law and order situation.

The revenue records are to be taken as final by the Ushr committees while assessing Ushr but informed circles contend that the revenue records themselves are too doubtful and in Baluchistan there are no revenue records at all. In view of this, they fear that many a new dispute would crop up unless all Ushr assesseees accept it as a religious duty and pay what is their due, as a part of the religious obligation.

CSU: 4600/394

NEGLECT OF COAL INDUSTRY DISCUSSED

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Feb 83 Economic & Business Review p III

[Article by Tufail Ahmad Khan]

[Text]

AT A TIME when the country is facing unprecedented shortage of energy, and prices of gas and petroleum products have been raised in the middle of the budget year, the output of coal has declined.

According to the Federal Bureau of Statistics, the production has come down from 1,597,000 tonnes in fiscal 1980-81 to 1,559,000 in fiscal 1981-82. The production of PMDC (Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation) came down from 148,629 tonnes in July-March 1980-81 to 145,984 tonnes in the same period in 1981-82.

In official circles, the decline is being attributed to slump in the coal market. But this argument would not appear to be tenable. For instance, brick kilns, which consume most of the coal, have expanded due to the construction boom in Punjab. Here brick is used in the construction of buildings instead of cement blocks.

Further, with the establishment of a coal washing plant at Sharigh in Baluchistan to supply 75,000 tons of washed coal annually to Pakistan Steel in order to "save foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 52.00 million per annum" as the Pakistan Economic Survey 1981-82 says, a new market is available.

Additionally, there are 10 thermal power stations where coal can be used. These units are situated in Multan, Faisalabad, Lahore, Goddu, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Kotri

and Quetta. For use in thermal stations, coal does not need even to be washed.

There is also a proposal to expand the use and thereby the market for coal by shifting cement factories to gas-cum-coal instead of gas-cum-oil, because the latter alternative will raise the production cost and prices of cement. If coal is used in cement factories, its market will further expand.

From coal to diesel

Ignoring coal as a source of energy began in early 1950s when there was wholesale conversion of railways locomotives from coal to diesel. Thermal power stations were also equipped with generators based on diesel instead of coal. The market for coal was thus restricted to brick kilns which even now consume over 90 per cent of the production. But even that market is not fully utilised because railway wagons are not easily available for the transportation of coal from mines in Baluchistan to Punjab and NWFP where most brick kilns are situated.

The reason put forward by official circles for non-utilisation of coal has been that our coal is "volatile, lignite to sub-bituminous with relatively high ash and sulphur contents." Only the coal from Sharigh "possesses medium coking characteristics." But this argument has been disproved because from 1980, we are making coke out of our coal for the steel mill. Actually, the technology to

wash such coal and make it fit for use in thermal stations and locomotives is already in use internationally.

It has been said that the real motivation behind abandoning coal in favour of oil was not technological. It was a result of behind-the-scene influence exerted on the administration by the multinational oil companies.

Thus coal was relegated to a secondary position after imported oil, although at that time we did not have even our own refineries. Obviously, the policymakers were not farsighted. They hardly realised the risks on relying on an imported source, much less that oil prices would not remain low for ever. As a result, the country is now spending U.S \$ 1,691.2 million annually (1981-82 fiscal year figure) on petroleum and petroleum products.

Washing plants

One obvious way to increase the use of coal as a source of energy would be to establish plants to wash coal so as to make it usable in locomotives. This could make railway transport cheaper and would generally benefit the national economy.

In this context, it needs to be pointed out that after the sharp rise in oil prices, even industrial countries, including USA and West Germany are reviving the use of their coal on a large scale. In 1979, a

summit conference of industrial countries held at Tokyo also resolved to accord top priority to coal consumption and now huge investments are being made in industrial countries in coal mining as well as in coal conversion.

In Pakistan, coal deposits are sizeable. They are officially estimated at 442 million tons and if proper use is made of this so far under-utilised source of energy, the output of coal lying untapped can be increased.

Makerwall collieries, for example, can increase its production capacity from the present 120,000 tons to 300,000 tons, Sharigh collieries from the present 50,000 tons to 100,000 tons and Jhimpur-Meting coalfield, from its initial capacity of 30,000 tons to 50,000 tons.

Lakhra coalfield has a proven capacity — in its 53 sq. kilometres area — of 100,000 tons per annum.

Japanese experts have already submitted a report for the development of this coalfield but not much appears to be done about it.

About 85 per cent of coal in Pakistan is mined by the private sector, which has its problems relating mainly to controls on investment and development. Mining is still impeded by laws and procedures made during the colonial era, which need to be changed now. Simultaneously, restrictions on leasing of land, for coal mining, to private sector have also to be relaxed.

SHOORA ADOPTS QAZI COURTS ORDINANCE

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 20: The Majlis-Shoora today unanimously adopted the draft Establishment of Qazis Courts Ordinance, 1983, and the report of the Pakistan Law Commission thereon.

The draft Ordinance which could now be sent to the President is Shoora's recommendation for enactment provides for setting up of Qazis courts for the purpose of permitting speedy and cheaper justice to the common man.

The House debate on the draft took 14 days and several amendments were approved by the Majlis.

The members taking part in the debate called this Ordinance a major step forward towards establishment of Islamic system of justice in the country.

In the clause-by-clause discussion, the Majlis today adopted 11 clauses including Clauses 56 to 64, Clause 1 and Clause 2, as also the Preamble. A number of additional clauses proposed by members were either ruled out of order by the Chair on technical grounds or rejected by the House. However, an amendment in Clause 1 proposed by Han Saifullah Khan calling the Ordinance as "Establishment of Courts of Qazis Ordinance, 1983" instead of 1981, was approved.

Chairman of the Majlis, Khwaja Mohammad Sardar, who presided

over the session thanked the members for their keen interest in the deliberations and valuable suggestions they made to improve the draft.

The House will debate the energy situation tomorrow.

Earlier, speaking on an adjournment motion by Mian Mohammad Shafi, Education Minister Mohammad Ali Khan said, all material repugnant to Islamic teachings has been struck off from text-books and a committee set up for the purpose has screened 550 books. Government has prohibited import of any anti-Islamic book and kept strict watch on syllabi of English medium schools for the purpose.

Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan, speaking on another adjournment motion moved by Jam Amir Ali regarding damage to Sukkur Barrage, assured the House that the Federal Government would give every possible assistance to the Provincial Government for its maintenance and repairs if requested but added that Provincial Government was primarily responsible for its maintenance.

He said, only Gate 31 of the Barrage was damaged in December last which has been repaired while other gates have also been strengthened.

The House adjourned to meet tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

RETIRED JUSTICE PRESENTS FORMULA FOR ELECTIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Feb 83 p 6

[Text]

Mr Justice (Retd) Shaukat Ali has suggested a formula for the solution of the present political deadlock through an early general election.

In a statement, issued in Lahore on Saturday, he has suggested that PPP should not participate in the elections even though it may be free to participate in the next general election five years thereafter.

He has also suggested that every candidate for provincial or Federal Assembly should be required to sign a declaration on oath, that he would lose his seat if after his election he pleads for a policy of vengeance against the present Government or its leaders.

Such candidates should also declare for indemnifying all measures taken by the present Government.

Statement

The statement said:

"Eight years after the Independence, in 1956, we got the first Constitution which was federal in nature. This Constitution was provided by the Constituent Assembly, representing the people of Pakistan. Then in 1962, Field Marshal Ayub Khan gave another Constitution followed later in 1971 by another Constitution provided by Gen Yahya Khan.

"This latter Constitution never came into being in practice. Thereafter, in the year 1973, the then Prime Minister Mr Bhutto, gave a Constitution which obtained the approval of the National Assembly at that time.

"The Constitution of 1956 was firstly suspended and then abrogated by F.M. Muhammad Ayub Khan. General Yahya Khan suspended Ayub Khan's Constitution and desired to bring in his own. Then the interim Constitution of Mr Bhutto was followed by the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan which had the approval and concurrence of all the political parties. The latest Constitution is, at the present moment, in abeyance under the command and authority of the present General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Fundamental rights

"Fundamental rights of the people were assured by all the Constitutions, but regrettably such rights were never enjoyed by the people of Pakistan. Similarly, all these Constitutions assured Pakistanis that the Muslims of Pakistan, individually as well as collectively, could lead their lives in accordance with the teachings and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah.

"There shall be democracy in the country and the superior Judiciary will be independent. However, every ruler of the country seemed determined in denying the people their constitutional right to have democracy in the country and lead their lives in accordance with the tenets of Islam.

"We recall that General Yahya Khan gave us the Legal Framework Order of 1970, under which he took the nation to the polls, but he found himself unable to transfer power to

the elected representatives of the people." Now we find that several organs of the present regime under General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, such as, Majlis-i-Shoora, Islamic Ideology Council and several Committees of the Ministers are endeavouring to frame a new political set up which, according to the present Government, would be Islamic in the real sense of the word, coupled with a promise that General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq would transfer power to the people of Pakistan once that set-up has been established.

"According to the history of Pakistan, several efforts on these lines have been made and one such effort resulted in the disintegration of Pakistan. To repeat those mistakes can be nothing but foolhardy.

In my humble view, it is advisable and appropriate to put the 1973 Constitution into effective use as it lacks nothing and depends on how sincerely it is put into practice.

"I must emphasise that the 1973 Constitution is one of the best that any democratic and Islamic country can have and can fairly be compared with the Constitutions of the advanced countries of the world. It was most unfortunate that so many amendments of drastic nature brought about by Mr Bhutto tend to change its real complexion.

"Such amendments were designed to cripple the Superior Judiciary with an obvious intention of Mr Bhutto to use parliament as a mere rubber stamp. The Pakistan community had been deprived of enjoying the real fruits of that Constitution because it had not been put into real use.

Real problem

"In my estimation, the real problem before the present Government is the policy of confrontation adopted by the PPP leadership. It is believed that if the nation is allowed to go to the polls, the PPP in the Punjab and Sind would defeat all the other political parties and would be a majority party in Pakistan.

"It may be stated in this context that several PPP leaders have announced that they were not interested in power and would not participate in the forthcoming (if any) elections. If some did, they would be content to sit on the Opposition benches.

"I feel the vehicle of the present state of affairs, which seems to have bogged down at present, can only be salvaged if once and for all it is decided that the PPP or its candidates will not participate in the forthcoming elections or for that matter, they would not put forth their candidates through any other political party or as independent candidates.

"If this is settled, the newly elected Government would rule for 5 years, at the end of which period, it would be open for the PPP to put up their candidates for the next general elections.

"It can be observed that in the present set-up, several leaders and leaders of the PPP have joined the Majlis-i-Shoora. I have been given to understand that 45% of them belong to the defunct PPP.

Formula

"The following formula may be suggested: That the PPP should not be registered as a political party. It can be argued that the members of the PPP might come through other political parties or as independent candidates.

"To check this eventuality a declaration, on oath, can be taken from every candidate that he would lose his seat immediately in case he pleads, vouches or supports, after his election, as an M.P.A. or M.N.A. the policy of vengeance against the present Government or its leaders.

"Furthermore, he must declare that he supports the institution of Pakistan Army, and that he would be in favour of indemnifying all the acts of the present Government done from the time it has taken over.

"If this formula is adopted, then the nation can safely be taken to the polls."

ZAKAT DISTRIBUTION FIGURES REPORTED

Urdu Daily in English 21 Feb 83 p 6

[Excerpt]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 20: The Federal Government has allocated over Rs. 1608 million to the four Provinces from the Central Zakat Fund for distribution among the Mustahqueen since June, 1980, to Dec, 1982.

This information was given to the Majlis-i-Shoora during 'Question Hour' by the Federal Minister for Finance, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan here this morning.

He stated that out of this, the province-wise allocation during the said period was, Punjab Rs. 958 million, Sind 325 million, N.W.F.P. 227 million, and Baluchistan 97 million.

The Finance Minister further said that the amount collected as compulsory Zakat during the said period was Rs. 2,372 million.

He said the Zakat and Ushr Ordinance has prescribed that Zakat deductions-at-source shall be made according to Zakat year, which commences from the first day of Ramazan-ul-Mubarak and ends with the last day of the following Shabanul Muazzam. The reply was given to a question asked by Mian Zaka-ur-Rehman.

AVAILABILITY OF COMPUTERS DETAILED

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Feb 83 Magazine p I

[Article by Zeenat Hisam]

[Text]

HAS Pakistan entered the computer age? Not yet. We do not manufacture them. But since we have become quite adept in importing gadgets, good, bad and ugly, from the industrialised world, it's no wonder that the most recent talk-of-the-world product — microcomputer — has attracted us as well. The brighter side of this new infatuation is: computer happens to be an effective tool and at present holds the key to development.

Computers entered the world in the form of huge, bulky and extremely expensive machines after the first electronic digital computer was assembled in the U.S. in 1946. The first commercial computer of mammoth size appeared in 1951. The 50s and 60s saw gradual computerisation of big businesses, banking and services in the developed countries. The Third World was yet to afford these machines which cost millions.

When the microprocessor, which contained the entire central processing unit (CPU) of a single computer on a chip, was designed by a U.S. engineer in 1971, the scene changed dramatically. With its size astonishingly shrunk and its price significantly reduced through

rapid high-tech innovations during the 70s, the computer became a tool to be used and owned by persons and not just by organisations. Personal computers invaded the market in the late 70s. Its use spread widely. Its sale gained momentum. In 1982 alone, 2.8 million units were sold.

Recent phenomenon

An immediate trickle to the Third World was inevitable. The low price and arcane mystery of the new machine had attracted people the world over.

"In Pakistan at present there are about 80 large frame machines installed by big organisations, national banks, etc., during the last decade. The IBM has 76% of the market, ICL 19%, and NCR the rest. Microcomputers, however, is a very recent phenomenon. Right now there are about 200 units in Pakistan, most of them acquired within the last two years", says Mr. Sarwar Mushtaq, General Manager, Alrashid Microcomputers Ltd., a dealer of Commodore computers.

"Of these, 70 units have been brought in by individuals in personal baggage. The remaining 130 have been sold locally by distributors. There are about 23 dealers at the moment. Some of them are authentic dealers who have ties with manufacturers. Others are independent businesses who buy the machines from various countries, especially from Taiwan. They have very little to do with the manufacturers," he stated.

Computer is basically a device to store and manipulate information — a task human beings can also do. The difference is: computers can do it much faster and with fewer errors thus cutting cost and saving time.

A computer, or the CPU, which is the brain, is supported by a number of peripheral devices. Altogether they are called a 'computer system'. The peripherals are usually a keyboard for data entry and instruction, a video-display to show the computer's output and check the input on the screen, a printer to record output in permanent forms (or sheets), some form of information storage (usually magnetic disks) to store data and the disk drive to run the disks. All these devices are termed as 'hardware'.

The most important thing, however, is the 'software'. Software is a programme package — a specific set of integrated instructions. Through software you make the computer do what you want it to do. It is said that 'hardware is to software as a TV set is to the programmes that appear on it.' If no programmes are aired, or plugged in through VCR, your TV set is blank. Similarly, if you have no software your computer is idle — a useless machine. Imported software may have little utility. Because a software package developed in USA basically caters to their system — legal, financial, social, educational — a system quite different from ours.

"Selling computers is not like selling a photocopier, typewriter etc. The dealers in Pakistan seem to be least interested in what you want to do with the machine. They just want you to buy it and do whatever you can do with it," Mr. Mushtaq said.

"The standard approach consists of studying the customer's procedure of work (manual system), identifying the bottlenecks, and, deciding at what points in the existing work structure a computer will solve the problem. I consider a problem area as the spot where most of your money is tied up. For instance if you are spending a hundred thousand or two in your inventory storage it's a problem area. If you computerise it, the cost will be reduced by 50 to 25 thousand."

"Thus the first step is to identify problems. Secondly, to decide

whether the problems can be solved by putting in a computer — sometimes you can fix the problem just by making certain changes in the manual system. Finally, to know how much information can be manoeuvred by the computer. On that depends the selection of a system," he continued.

"Due to lack of this approach on the part of the dealers, some customers have got systems lying idle with them. Some have sought help elsewhere. A few have got simply disgusted and given up. The dealers are now slowly learning this is not the correct approach. And I think the situation will change after a while."

Alrashid Microcomputers Ltd. started in December '81. Uptil now they have sold 62 units and they expect to corner 60% of the market in '83 — that is, selling 240 computers out of 400 units that are estimated to be sold in the current year.

About the applicability of imported software Mr. Mushtaq said it depends on the nature of work. In many cases, however, locally developed programmes are required. "We spent a huge amount on acquiring a foreign accounting package and got it evaluated from certified chartered accountants. After a thorough scrutiny we decided it's not worth it and it's better to develop an accounting package suited to the local system with statutory stipulations, legal requirements and specific taxations included in it. Hence in collaboration with Ferguson, we have developed a comprehensive package that covers the entire accounting spectrum geared to our system. Besides, we have developed 15 packages so far to cater to the different needs of customers."

The Business Systems International, which is selling Apple computers since January '81, claims to be the first dealer of microcomputers in Pakistan. Mr. Syed Obaidullah, its Managing Director, also sounds very optimistic about the potential growth and future application of small computers in Pakistan.

"We have developed five different types of application packages — accounting, inventory control, sales invoicing, a technical package, a critical-path analysis method applicable in construction. Besides industrial concerns, businesses and construction com-

panies our customers include a few doctors. They are using computers to keep their patients' records in addition to maintain their finances. People are getting aware of what computers can do for them," he said.

Chinese

Perhaps the most fascinating feature of computers is its adaptability. It's a tool which facilitates work in almost every field of life — education, business, industry, agriculture, law, medicine, sciences. It is adaptable to any kind of specific requirement. Any computer with the right capacity can be instructed into doing what you want.

The language of the computer is English. However keyboards of different languages can be developed. Chinese with the expert help from USA are engaged in developing a Chinese keyboard. The Chinese language consists of 50,000 characters as compared to 26 alphabets in English. To be considered literate in China you must know at least 2000 characters while the university-educated understand 5000.

Computer experts at IBM have developed a keyboard with a capacity to represent more than 2000 characters and are working to evolve a more comprehensive system. They have also built a high-resolution display screen to show the complex Chinese characters. Ideographic Word Processing System which operates in Mandarin and Japanese languages have already been developed. These developments indicate that computers have the capacity to cater for different cultures.

Mr. Mohammad Shafi, an industrialist, claims to be the first person to bring a microcomputer in personal baggage. "I brought Commodore PET in 1977. Initially I bought it as a hobby — just to tinker with it and play games. Then I started working on it in the real sense. I learned BASIC at home and developed a few simple programmes for myself. In 1980 I brought Apple II."

He has recently established Pan Ocean Enterprises Ltd for dealing in small computers and peripherals. At the moment he is marketing floppy disks (Verbatim USA and Maxel, Japan) and software packages (Visicorp USA).

"Prior to July 1981, there were restrictions on the import of computers. Today microcomputers and peripheral, of value not exceeding \$15,000 are allowed on the free list with 60% duty. The Government's policy towards technology, however, is not very encouraging. The need is to adopt a liberal approach and formulate import regulations conducive to the spread of this form of cheap technology," he said.

National Computers was set up in March '82 and started selling in May. "Initially we sold Radio Shack. Last September we finalised a deal with Osborne. In fact we had just two months of selling in which we sold seven units of Osborne. This year I expect to sell 60-80 units," Mr. Sami Askari, Managing Director, told me.

Talking about software he said, "In my opinion can-packages, or imported software, cater to 80-90% of anybody's work the world over. Standards are the same, for example in inventory control, ledger etc. It's only 10-20% of the work which is peculiar to each country, each industry. Now it depends on how much you want to compromise on that. Most people who buy computers have no idea or are vague about it. They cannot evaluate the full potential of the machine."

Educational

"I think," he continued, "people should use can packages to start with. After using it for some time they come to know what they really require. Then, if they need, they can have a customised package made for them by the programmer."

At present the number of computer training institutes in Pakistan is 21 (10 in Karachi). Of these, six institutes do not have computers. The Institute of Business Administration Karachi also offers courses in computer programming. IBA doesn't have a computer yet but it is planning to acquire one soon. For the learning of computer programming, practical knowledge of the machine is essential.

Besides industrial and business concerns, educational institutions have been acquiring microcomputers for various applications. At Karachi University, the Applied Economics Research Centre has a Hawlett-Packard System 45 and Apple II for economic projections

and statistical application. The Statistics Department and Physics Department have a Sord computer each. NED University have Commodore 4000 for Engineering projects; Dawood Engineering College has two VIC-20 for the same purpose; Pakistan Ship Owner's Govt. College has Commodore 4000 for statistical application; Ayub Medical College also has a Commodore for students records and grading; American School, Karachi has six computers for teaching application.

Of these, the application of computer by Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad is thought-provoking and must be followed by other educational institutions. Ayub Medical College, a customer of Alrashid Microcomputers Ltd. bought the system eight months back to overcome the problem of "human element" from examination grading. Besides cheating, the frequent complaint was 'students either bribe the examiners or threaten him'.

Alrashid Microelectronics Ltd. developed a programme through which 10,000 questions have been stored on the disks. Computer picks out 100 questions at random and turns them on separate examination sheets. No two exam sheets are the same. Students answer the questions on cards and cards are fed to the machine, which grades the cards and put them each with the student's other record. The computer cannot be bribed or threatened — VOILA!

The dealers of microcomputer are invariably the young entrepreneurs — in their 30s, with a fresh approach to life and minds receptive to technology. These young educated businessmen, who have hired local programmers to run their services, are of the opinion that there is certainly no dearth of talented youth with analytical minds and required aptitude who can be trained into good programmers.

However it seems that so far most of the people have bought comput-

ers out of curiosity rather than out of an understanding of their specific requirements. According to a rough estimate about half of the systems sold are lying idle or not being used to the full capacity. In Pakistan you can buy a small computer in the range of Rs.6,000 to 1,50,000 depending on the system and its application.

Microcomputers

While the industrial world is reeling in computer revolution its future effect on the Third World is difficult to predict. E.F. Schumacher in his famous book on economics "Small is beautiful" had written in 1973: "If we define the level of technology in terms of 'equipment cost per workplace', we can call the indigenous technology of a typical developing country — symbolically speaking — a £1-technology, while that of the developed countries could be called a £1000-technology. The gap between these two technologies is so enormous that a transition from one to the other is simply impossible."

However, today, Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, a notable French high-tech expert and the director of the World Computer Centre, Paris, believes that 'the computer is so cheap and powerful that it could enable underdeveloped nations to bypass the whole industrial revolution.' He believes that illiteracy in the Third World could be eliminated through the teaching power of the computer.

It seems that the gap between the two technologies can be significantly narrowed by the magic of microcomputers (small is beautiful, remember). Because when the Japanese push into the world market and topple American industry (like it did in automobile and small electronics) no wonder computers might become a household item like cassette-recorders in the Third World.

BRIEFS

WOMAN PPP LEADER HELD--ISLAMABAD, Feb 20--Mrs Nusrat Rashid, President of the Rawalpindi Distric Women's branch of the PPP, was this morning arrested from her residence in the Satellite Town and sent to District Jail for 60 days. The order of her arrest and detention, issued by the District Magistrate under the West Pakistan Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960, said Mrs Nusrat Rashid was "acting in a manner prejudicial to public safety and maintenance of public order and is likely to continue to act in the same manner" [Karachi DAWN in English 21 Feb 83 p 1]

ZAKAT DISBURSEMENT METHOD CRITICIZED--RAWALPINDI, Feb 20--Malik Mohammad Akbar Saqi, a leader of the defunct Jamiat i-Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP) and Convener, Tehrik-i-Nizam-i-Mustafa, Punjab, criticised the method of disbursement of Zakat money and alleged that members of a particular political party have been nominated for this purpose. Speaking at a reception given by Idara-i-Tab-leegh-i-Ahle Sunnat he demanded formation of Zakat Foundation on the pattern of Fauji Foundtion for the welfare of the disabled and deserving persons. [Karachi DAWN in English 21 Feb 83 p 6]

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